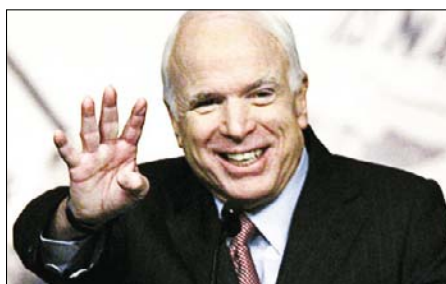


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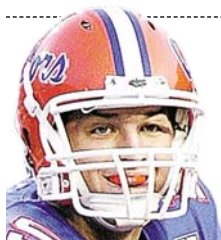
Weekend



John McCain was set to announce his VP choice.

GOP Crossroads: Party to reforge identity in St. Paul | **7**

Gang Presence: D.C. says Bloods, Crips active in area | **11**



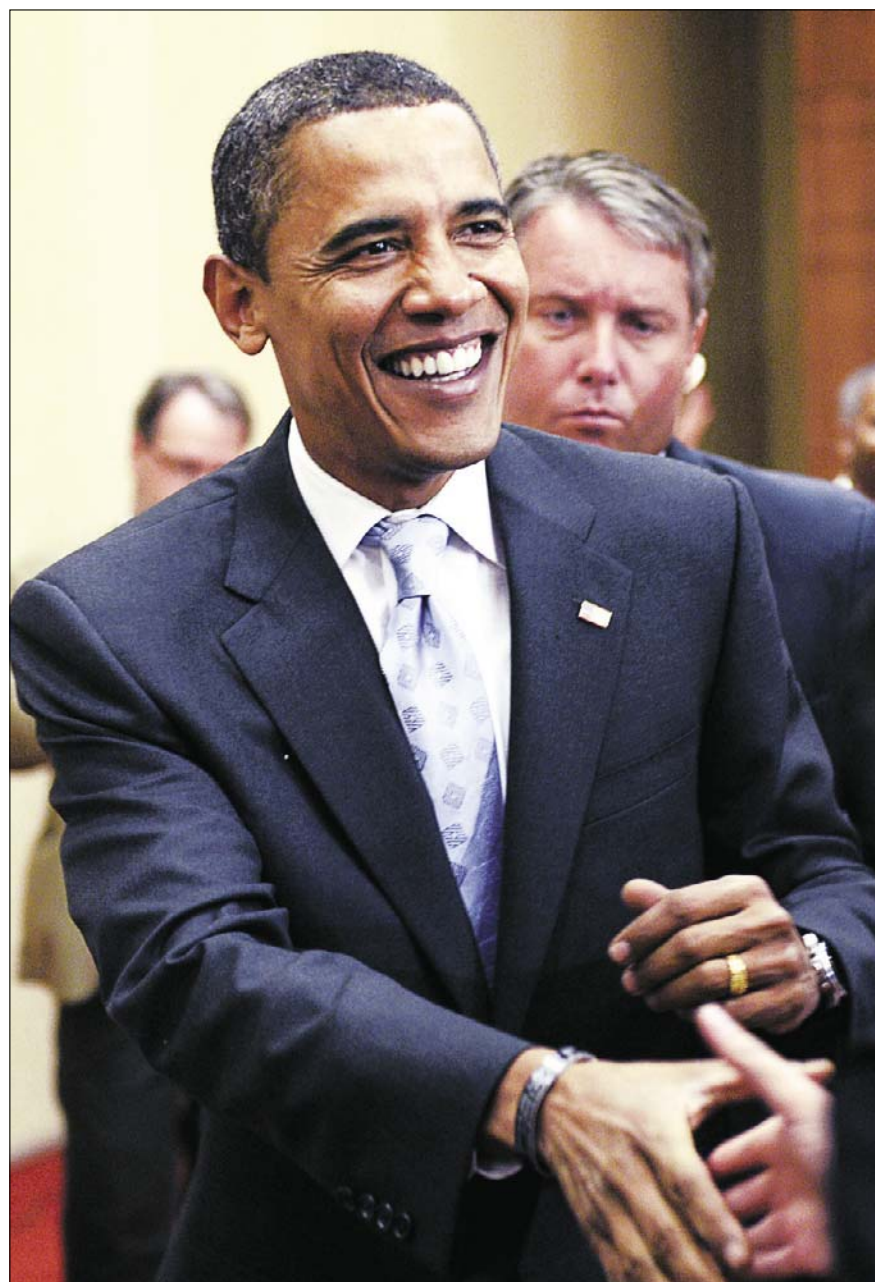
Two-Timer?
Is Tebow the favorite for the Heisman? | **14**

ENTERTAINMENT

Ice Princess:

Melissa Leo stars in 'Frozen River.' Also, a new book about one woman's life working in Saudi Arabia.

>> **17-27**



EMMANUEL DUNAND/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Obama Begins Historic Final Push

MAN OF THE HOUR: Sen. Barack Obama thanks Illinois delegates at the Democratic National Convention in Denver. At Mile High Stadium Thursday night, the 45th anniversary of Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech, Obama was scheduled to accept the party's nomination, becoming the first black presidential nominee of a major party. ♦ **Highlights:** Obama's speech | **Today's Post**

Russian Rhetoric Heats Up

Putin accuses the U.S. of pushing Georgia into war

MOSCOW | Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin accused the United States on Thursday of pushing Georgia toward war and said he suspects a connection to the U.S. presidential campaign — a contention the White House dismissed as "patently false."

In another sign of unraveling Russia-U.S. ties, Putin said that 19 U.S. poultry producers will be barred from exporting their products to Russia.

Putin, the former president and architect of an assertive foreign policy that stoked East-West tension even before Russia's war with the U.S.-allied ex-Soviet republic, suggested in an interview with CNN that there was an American presence amid the combat with a potential domestic U.S. political motive.

"We have serious grounds to think that there were U.S. citizens right in the combat zone," he said in the interview broadcast on state-run Russian television. "And if that's so, if that is confirmed, it's very bad. It's very dangerous."

Putin's acid attack on the United States came as Moscow's bid to redraw Georgia's borders hit an obstacle among its Asian allies.

France, meanwhile, said the European Union is considering sanctions against Russia for its conduct in the Caucasus.

STEVE GUTTERMAN (AP)



Putin



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FRIDAY
78 | 69



SATURDAY
84 | 71



SUNDAY
89 | 67

TODAY: Partly sunny with showers and thunderstorms possible | **38**

eyeOpeners

MIRACLES

Second Purpose For Diapers Found

A disposable diaper has saved the life of an 18-month-old boy, breaking his fall from a third-floor apartment window. Caua Felipe Massaneiro survived a 30-foot fall because his diaper snagged on a security spike embedded in the concrete wall around his apartment building in the northern Brazilian city of Recife. The boy dangled from the spike for a moment, then "the diaper opened and the baby fell to the ground, but at a much slower speed," a police officer said. "The diaper obviously lessened the impact of the fall and saved the baby's life." "It was a miracle," said the officer. (AP)



BIRTH

Doctor Way Wrong About 'Fun' Part

An Indian woman gave birth to a healthy boy aboard a jet airliner while flying to Australia to reunite with her husband. Judith Hamel, one of four doctors who helped deliver the 6-pound baby aboard the Cathay Pacific flight from Hong Kong to Adelaide, described the delivery as smooth. "I think we all had fun once we knew it was all safe," Hamel said. The flight was diverted to the northern city of Darwin. The mother was 34 weeks' pregnant when she took the first flight of her life from New Delhi. She and her first born, six weeks premature, were both doing well. (AP)



JOHN AMIS/AP

STUNTS

Straw Very

The population boom in Hoschton, Ga., is frightening. In a bid to break a world record for scarecrows, thousands of straw-stuffed newcomers are creeping across town. There's a scuba diver, the Georgia Bulldogs football team and — of course — the cast of "The Wizard of Oz." The 1,700 real residents of Hoschton hope to nearly triple their population with 4,000 scarecrows and break the Guinness World Record for "Most Scarecrows in One Location." (AP)

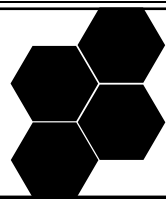
INSECTS

Trial Takeover of Earth Is a Success

An invasion of fire ants following heavy rains in East Tennessee has shut down

all athletic fields at the Athens Regional Park. Director Austin Fesmire told the Chattanooga Times Free Press that no one noticed any ant infestation on the soccer and softball fields as late as Tuesday, but anthills began

appearing on Wednesday. Now hundreds of anthills are visible. Closed signs are posted, and the fields are off-limits indefinitely. Fesmire said a treatment product will be applied in the next few days. (AP)



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THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION



What shaped McCain?
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Pick it up Sunday, Aug. 31

The Washington Post

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JUST ADD LARD: Everything is bigger in Texas, especially the calorie counts. The State Fair of Texas is holding its annual contest to honor the state's tastiest fried fare. The eight finalists include chicken-fried bacon strips and fried chocolate-covered strawberry waffle balls.

Nation

Katrina Hit City's Most Vulnerable

Report: Nearly half of deaths from storm were people over 75

CHICAGO | As New Orleans residents warily track another threatening storm, a new report presents the clearest picture yet of deaths from Katrina in Louisiana. Of the nearly 1,000 who died, almost half were 75 or older, according to researchers.

Most died on the day of the storm — Aug. 29, 2005 — and drowning was the leading cause of death. More than one-third died in homes.

The results present a tragic portrait of elderly residents who may have thought the warnings were a false alarm, who feared that abandoning their homes would lead to looting, or who simply didn't want to leave their familiar surroundings.

The high death toll in the elderly was likely due to those factors along with older people's being more vulnerable and frail and unable to fight the catastrophic storm, the report said. LINDSEY TANNER (AP)

McCain Veep Speculation Mounts

Pawlenty, Romney, Lieberman are among the possible options

DENVER | Republican presidential candidate John McCain decided on a running mate early Thursday, and one top prospect, Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, abruptly canceled numerous public appearances.

The Arizona senator will appear with his No. 2 at an Ohio rally on Friday, aides said, though they provided no details on who McCain

had picked.

Without explanation, Pawlenty called off an Associated Press interview at the last minute, as well as other media interviews in Denver, site of the Democratic National Convention.

Others believed to be in contention for the No. 2 slot on the GOP ticket included former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney, who was meeting with donors throughout California, and Democrat-turned-independent Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, who was vacationing



Minn. Gov. Tim Pawlenty was one of the rumored VP options for John McCain.

on New York's Long Island.

Former Pennsylvania governor Tom Ridge, too, was still a possibility, as was the idea that McCain would choose a dark horse from any number of names that have circulated.

McCain, for his part, was uncharacteristically silent.

As he and his wife, Cindy, boarded a plane in Phoenix, reporters shouted a barrage of questions at the senator about whether he'd made up his mind. McCain wasn't biting. He flashed a double thumbs-up and boarded the plane. (AP)

ST. PAUL, MINN. | FINISHING TOUCHES



GRAND PARTY: Bill Schaffell prepares a net full of balloons Thursday that will drop in the Xcel Energy Center on the final day of the Republican National Convention next week in St. Paul, Minn. More than 100,000 balloons will be inflated in preparation for the festivities. St. Paul will host the Republican convention, which runs from Sept. 1 to Sept. 4.

AdWatch



“I wanted to stop and say, congratulations. How perfect that your nomination would come on this historic day. Tomorrow, we'll be back at it. But tonight, senator [Obama], job well done.”

—SEN. JOHN MCCAIN, IN AN AD THAT AIRED THURSDAY NIGHT DURING SEN. BARACK OBAMA'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH.



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:
In observance of the Labor Day holiday, Express will not publish on Monday. Publishing will resume on Tuesday.



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Nation

11.7

The percentage of deaths among American Indians and Alaska natives that were alcohol-related between 2001 and '05, more than three times the national average, a new report says.

Gustav Could Test Levees

New Orleans residents wonder whether rebuilt flood walls will hold

NEW ORLEANS | Just three years after Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans confronts a new threat from Gustav and a stark question: Will the partially rebuilt levees hold?

Despite \$2 billion in improvements, including 220 miles of repaired, raised and replaced floodwalls, 17 new pump stations and more flood-resistant pump stations, nobody can say for sure the city won't be swamped again. And if it is, could it ever recover?

"It's scary, man," said Robert Russell, a 63-year-old plumber whose house in Gentilly Woods is close to floodwalls on the Industrial Canal that are so suspect the Army Corps of Engineers is buffering them with large baskets filled with sand.

Levee experts and the Army Corps insist New Orleans is safer than before Katrina flooded more than 80 percent of the city on Aug. 29, 2005.



These pumps on the 17th Street Canal in New Orleans were installed after Hurricane Katrina. The Army Corps of Engineers has spent billions improving the levees.

Yet the system still has severe shortcomings: flood barriers meant to withstand only medium-strength storms, hidden layers of weak soil and navigation channels that inadvertently funnel storm surge into the city, to name a few.

Experts estimate the system is only a third of the way to where

the corps wants it by 2011 — strong enough to protect against what scientists call a 100-year-storm. That type of hurricane has a 1 percent chance of occurring each year.

The agency has not classified Gustav, which was spinning Thursday near Jamaica, lashing the island with high winds. CAIN BURDEAU (AP)

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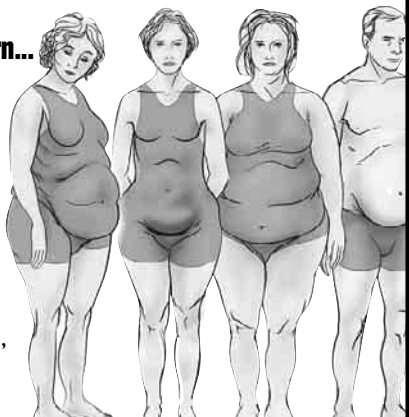
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Matthew Baer, Ivory Tower Antiques
Title: *Japanese Imari Porcelain — East Meets West*

3:00 pm

Gus Davis, Camilla Dietz Bergeron, Ltd.
Title: *A Journey of Artistic Splendor:
20th Century Jewelry Design*

Saturday, August 30

1:00 pm

Spencer Gordon & Mark McHugh, Spencer Marks Ltd.
Title: *Collecting Rarities in Silver: Every Treasure
Tells a Story*

3:00 pm

Eric Silver, Lillian Nassau LLC
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Sunday, August 31

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Ian Kahn, Lux Mentis Booksellers
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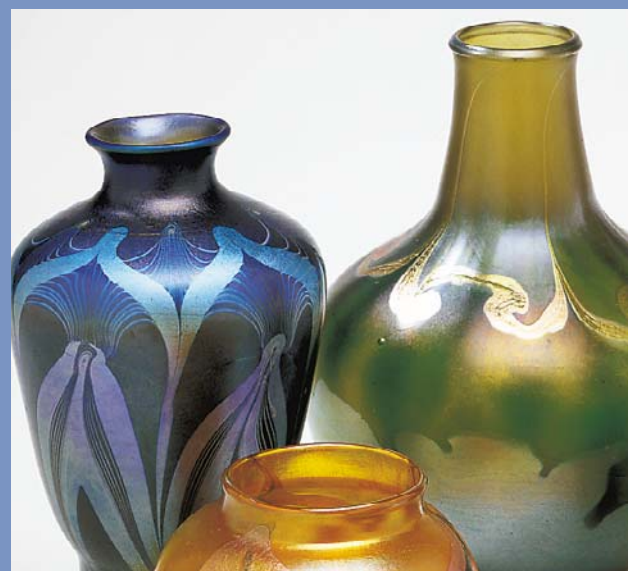
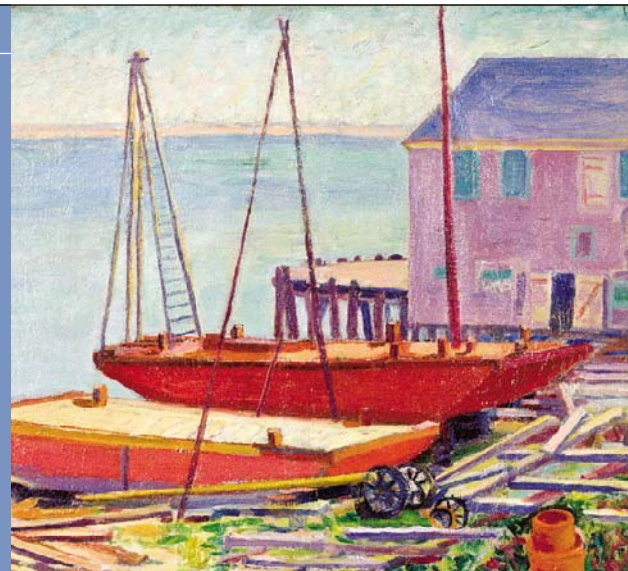
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“By the way, if I hear one more time that [Sen. Obama] was 11 years old when I went to the Senate, I’m going to smack somebody.”

—Sen. Joe Biden, joking with Pennsylvania delegates Thursday at the Democratic Convention

Nation

In Brief



John McDonnell stocks up on gas Wednesday in anticipation of Gustav.

NEW YORK

Gustav Fears May Be Felt At the Pump This Weekend

Drivers might want to top off their tanks early before hitting the road for Labor Day weekend. Consumers will likely face higher prices at the pump during the busy holiday period as Tropical Storm Gustav swirls toward the Gulf of Mexico on a path that could disrupt energy production. Any damage to oil and gas facilities — especially along the vulnerable Gulf Coast — could send retail gas prices spiking back above \$4 a gallon, analysts say. (AP)

DALLAS

2 City Workers Hurt After Construction Crane Topples

A crane lowering a heavy length of pipe toppled Thursday at a city water pumping station in Dallas, injuring two city workers. The boom of the crane fell onto the roof and the pipe landed on two city vehicles, crushing their roofs. A worker in a truck struck by the pipe had a head laceration, said Dallas Fire Rescue spokeswoman Sherrie Lopez. The injured workers were in good condition at a Dallas hospital. (AP)

HEARSAY | POLITICS

“For the past eight years, the man in the Oval Office has tipped his hat over his eyes, kicked back his chair and snoozed at his desk.”

—SENATE MAJORITY LEADER HARRY REID, CRITICIZING THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION ON THURSDAY AT THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

Republican Party at a Crossroads

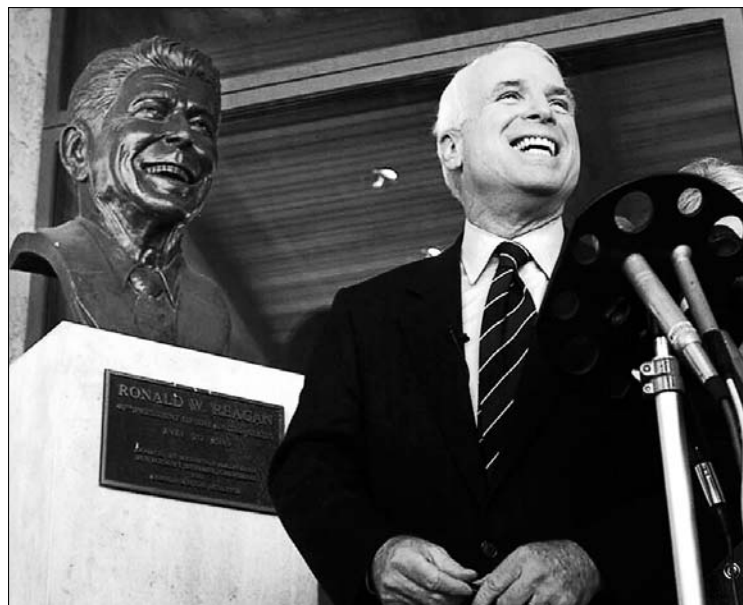
GOP will begin effort to forge new identity at next week’s convention

WASHINGTON | The Republican Party that strode confidently into New York City to nominate President Bush for a second term in 2004 would hardly recognize the one that opens its national convention Sept. 1 in St. Paul.

Bush won re-election by defeating John Kerry, Republicans expanded their House and Senate majorities, and demoralized Democrats wondered aloud how many elections it would take to regain control of Congress. Republican leaders championed deep tax cuts, partial privatization of Social Security, and aggressive actions at home and abroad in the name of fighting terrorism.

Democrats seemed unsure what they stood for.

Now Republicans appear to have lost their identity, wondering when the bleeding will stop. After losing 30 House seats and control of both congressional chambers in 2006,



Republican Sen. John McCain appears at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library & Museum in 1999. Reagan’s presidency has been a guiding force for the GOP.

they are anticipating even more House and Senate losses this fall. Most polls find GOP presidential candidate John McCain trailing Democrat Barack Obama, and far more enthusiasm among Democratic voters and donors than among Republicans.

“For the Republicans, it’s going to get worse before it gets better,” said Richard Armey, a former GOP House majority leader from Texas. “I think they will take a pretty severe beating in this election,” said Armey, who helped engineer the 1994 “Republican Revolution” that gave

the party control of the House after 40 years in the minority.

Even a McCain presidency would not entirely heal the deep, systemic

After a triumph in the 2004 election, Republicans seemed to have lost their way.

problems afflicting their party, leading Republicans say. In interviews, many of these Republicans said the party has lost its bearings. But they were nowhere near a consensus on what to do about it.

For now, the Republican Party seems torn from familiar moorings of fiscal prudence, social conservatism and sure-footed national security policies. Few think the journey back to prosperity will be easy.

“The Republican Party is going to undergo a fairly extended fight for its new identity,” said GOP pollster Whit Ayres. CHARLES BABINGTON (AP)

CDC Says Salmonella Scare Is Over

But officials warn an outbreak could very easily happen again

WASHINGTON | The government said Thursday that the salmonella outbreak in the U.S. that sickened at least 1,440 people appears to be over, but its ultimate source may never be known, partly because of shortcomings in the nation’s food safety system.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration said they found strong evidence to implicate jalapeno and serrano peppers, and a farm in Mexico, in the largest outbreak of foodborne illness in a decade. Investigators were unable to clear domestic and imported tomatoes, however, although the evidence against tomatoes is weaker.

The FDA also lifted its warning



The government believes jalapeno peppers helped spread a strain of salmonella.

that consumers avoid eating jalapeno and serrano peppers from Mexico. But officials pointedly said that doesn’t guarantee another such outbreak can be prevented.

“None of us can provide a cast-iron guarantee that salmonella

Saintpaul will not re-emerge,” said Dr. David Acheson, the FDA’s food safety chief.

The outbreak was traced to a jalapeno pepper at a Texas distributor that received produce from Mexico. RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR (AP)=

‘Junior’ Gotti Pleads Not Guilty

TAMPA, FLA. | John A. “Junior” Gotti has pleaded not guilty to federal racketeering charges in Tampa.

The 44-year-old son of the former Gambino family crime boss was arraigned in federal court Thursday afternoon. He faces conspiracy charges that link him to three mob slayings, cocaine distribution and other crimes. Prosecutors say Gotti was a chief in an arm of the Gambino crime family that operated in Florida and other states going back to 1983. Gotti denies the charges and said he has long been retired from organized crime. (AP)



BY THE NUMBERS:

A new poll by the Public Policy Institute finds 54 percent of likely Calif. voters oppose a measure on the ballot to ban same-sex marriages. (AP)

World

101

The number of stories in China's tallest building, the Shanghai World Financial Center, which opens to the public on Saturday. The 1,614-foot-tall building had once been expected to be world's tallest, but others surpassed it during its 14-year construction.

Georgia, U.N. Backers Decry Russia

Russia accuses critics of bias, hypocrisy in emergency meeting

UNITED NATIONS | Georgia and its backers in the U.N. Security Council on Thursday decried Russia's recognition of two breakaway provinces. Russia responded by accusing its critics of bias and hypocrisy in an emergency meeting that turned bitter and personal.

The U.S., Britain and Georgia accused Russia of attempting to redraw internationally recognized

borders through force by moving troops into Georgia and then recognizing the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia Tuesday.

Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said the charges were undercut by the international recognition of Kosovo's independence from Serbia this year by Washington and many European countries and by their own use of force against opponents, in particular, by the U.S. in Iraq.

"Weapons of mass destruction: Have you found them in Iraq yet or are you still looking for them?"

CHINA REBUFFS RUSSIA

→ China and several Central Asian nations rebuffed Russia's hopes of support for its actions in Georgia, issuing a statement Thursday denouncing the use of force and calling for respect of every nation's territorial integrity.

→ A joint declaration from the six-member Shanghai Cooperation Organization also offered some support for Russia's "active role in promoting peace" after a cease-fire. (AP)

Churkin asked U.S. deputy ambassador Alejandro Wolff in remarks that also touched on centuries of Caucasus and Soviet history.

Wolff responded: "I'm not a psychologist, and I don't know what brought on the free association that we heard from Ambassador Churkin."

China, a frequent ally of Russia in the council, did not address the meeting, which consisted almost entirely of criticism of Russia. Vietnam and Libya also remained silent, highlighting Russia's isolation in the council. MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN (AP)



Afghan men look at a house that was reportedly destroyed in a U.S.-led raid.

Afghans: Raid Based On Bad Tip

Rival clan reportedly misinformed U.S.-led forces in deadly attack

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN | Afghan officials said Thursday that a deadly U.S.-led special forces raid on a remote western village last week was based on misleading information provided by a rival clan.

It was the latest twist in a tangled debate over what happened. U.N. officials say the raid killed up to 90 civilians, most of them children. A NATO official said U.S. and Afghan troops were fired on first, touching off a battle of several hours that killed 25 militants and five civilians.

The U.S. government is pressing for a joint U.S.-Afghan probe in hopes of reaching a common conclusion. Two Pentagon officials said Thursday a U.S. review concluded civilian deaths were far fewer than claimed by others. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the report had not been made public, said the findings were given to Afghan leaders.

Evidence from all sides has been scant, with no conclusive photos or video emerging to shed light on what happened in Azizabad on Aug. 22. But the claim of high civilian casualties, also made by Afghan officials, is causing new friction between President Hamid Karzai and his Western backers.

FISNIK ABRASHI AND JASON STRAZIUSO (AP)

In Brief

BEIJING

Chinese Police Clash With Muslim Minority in W. China

Chinese police clashed with members of the Muslim Uighur ethnic minority in the western region of Xinjiang, authorities and an activist said Thursday, the first reported violence in the area since two high-profile attacks during the Olympics. Two Chinese policemen died. It was not clear what ignited Wednesday's conflict. (AP)

MEXICO CITY

Supreme Court Upholds Capital's Abortion Law

Mexico's Supreme Court upheld the capital's abortion law Thursday, setting a precedent for the rest of Mexico that could inspire other Latin American cities. Mexico City allows abortion without limitations in the first trimester, although abortion rights groups say most doctors still refuse to do the procedure. (AP)

PATNA, INDIA

Indian Government Sets Aside \$200M for Flood Aid

The Indian government has made available more than \$200 million to combat monsoon flooding in the country's north that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh described Thursday as a national calamity. Almost 1,500 soldiers boosted rescue efforts as helicopters dropped food to more than 1 million people. (AP)

AFGHANISTAN | A HERO'S WELCOME



INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: Afghan fans welcome home Olympic athlete Rohullah Nikpai in Kabul on Thursday. Nikpai earned the bronze medal in the men's under-58-kilogram category taekwondo competition in Beijing.

Italian Museum Stands by Sculpture That Angered Pope

ROME | An art museum in northern Italy said Thursday it will continue displaying a sculpture portraying a green frog nailed to a cross that has angered Pope Benedict XVI and local officials.

The board of the foundation of the Museion in Bolzano voted to keep the work by the late German artist Martin Kippenberger, the



A sculpture of a frog nailed to a cross in Bolzano, Italy, has angered the pope.

museum said in a statement.

Earlier in August the pope had written a letter to Franz Pahl, the president of the region that includes Bolzano, denouncing the work.

It "has offended the religious feelings of many people who consider the cross a symbol of God's love and of our redemption," Pahl quoted the pope's letter. (AP)



LEADING LADY: German Chancellor Angela Merkel topped Forbes magazine's list of the world's 100 most powerful women for the third year in a row. She was cited by the magazine for her efforts to streamline Europe's biggest economy, increasing the national retirement age and putting more women in senior government posts.

World

Attitudes on Art Relax in Singapore

Theater festival takes advantage of looser censorship guidelines

SINGAPORE | A comedy pokes fun at the military. A drama depicts a local stripper from the 1950s. A satire portrays an ethnic Malay Muslim general who becomes a dictator.

The biennial Singapore Theatre Festival, which wrapped up Sunday, showcased how artists here are taking advantage of relaxed government censorship to explore once-taboo subjects — even, to some degree, the highly charged issues of race, religion and politics.

"There's a huge difference in what's allowed now compared to five years ago," said Gaurav Kri-



Playwright Ng Yi-Sheng took part in last week's Singapore Theatre Festival.

palani, who has helped stage "Rent," "Death of a Salesman" and "Avenue Q" as artistic director of the Singapore Repertory Theatre.

“There’s a huge difference in what’s allowed now compared to five years ago.”

GAURAV KRIPALANI,
SINGAPORE REPERTORY THEATRE

There are limits. The government banned a 2006 play for “portraying Muslims in a negative light,” along with documentaries about opposition political figures and even a few Janet Jackson CDs with racy lyrics.

Still, the notoriously straight-laced Southeast Asian city-state is

finally letting its hair down, a few strands at a time.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong recently announced that the government would lift a ban on films with political themes, while maintaining one on political commercials and what he called “partisan stuff.” The ban was lifted in part because of widespread Internet use, which has undermined government censorship efforts.

Another reason for loosening up is economic: Faced with a shortage of skilled workers and an aging population, the government is trying to attract qualified foreigners to Singapore. It also wants to keep locals, who are becoming more sophisticated, from migrating abroad.

ALEX KENNEDY (AP)



Anti-government activists rest during a demonstration in Bangkok Thursday.

Thai Activists Fend off Police, Continue Protest

BANGKOK, THAILAND | Thai anti-government protesters occupying the grounds of the prime minister's office forced several hundred policemen off the compound early Friday and promised more action in their bid to oust the leader.

Police exercised restraint when the demonstrators — some armed with golf clubs, batons and bamboo sticks — pushed up to 400 officers out of the Government House grounds at about 1 a.m.

Protesters celebrated by dancing to rock music, a sharp contrast to the tensions Wednesday when they threw up makeshift barricades.

"We can relax now, but please be cautious, they might return soon," protest organizer Samran Rodpetch announced from a stage.

Thousands of supporters of the conservative People's Alliance for Democracy spent a third night encamped at Government House in support of their campaign to force Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej from office. SUTIN WANNABOVORN (AP)

HEARSAY | COMEBACK

"I am glad to be back after a decade. I really feel vindicated. I feel great."

—ANWAR IBRAHIM,
MALAYSIAN OPPOSITION LEADER, WHO
REJOINED THE PARLIAMENT ON THURSDAY.



Local residents examine the wreckage of a bus that was destroyed by a car bomb near Bannu, Pakistan, Thursday, killing eight.

Car Bomb Kills 8 on Bus in Pakistan

Blast is latest in string of deadly attacks since Musharraf resigned

PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN | A surge of violence continued unabated in Pakistan's tribal border region Thursday, with a car bomb blasting a bus

filled with Pakistani police and government workers off a bridge and killing eight people aboard.

More than 200 people have died in Taliban bombings and clashes since Pervez Musharraf quit as president and triggered a power struggle that caused the country's ruling coalition to collapse.

U.S. officials have been pressing for more action against insurgent strongholds in Pakistan's wild border region.

Pakistan's military insists it is doing what it can to contain militants and prevent them from moving against NATO and Afghan troops on the other side of the

Afghan-Pakistan border.

Thursday's powerful blast incinerated the car in which the bomb was hidden and left a massive crater in the middle of the long, concrete

STRATEGY SESSION

- Pakistan's army chief met with Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Tuesday on the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln in the Indian Ocean to talk about the worsening violence along the Afghan-Pakistan border.
- Mullen declined to give details about talks with General Ashfaq Kayani but said they were moving in the right direction.
- Pakistani army spokesman Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas said there were no new agreements.

bridge near the city of Bannu.

The badly damaged bus smashed through a railing and tumbled about 30 feet into a riverbed.

Jalil Khan, the local police chief, said the bus was en route to a local prison to pick up several inmates. He said seven policemen and an education department official who had hitched a ride were killed.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, though police said militants were the likely culprits.

RIAZ KHAN (AP)

Money



HOLD ONTO YOUR SEAT: An official with Air Canada's regional carrier Jazz says the airline is removing life vests from its planes to save weight and fuel. Safety cards in Jazz aircraft now direct passengers to use the seat cushions as floatation devices.

Apple Unscathed by Product Gaffes

Bugs in the company's latest gadgets haven't stopped eager buyers

TECHNOLOGY | First an iPhone price cut left early buyers feeling foolish, and then came reports that some iPods were spitting sparks. Now the new iPhone 3G has been marred by bugs, spotty service, disappearing programs for the device and a veil of secrecy over software developers trying to broaden its appeal.

Such a string of mishaps and missteps might throw another electronics company into crisis. But, of course, Apple Inc. isn't just another electronics company. Even as iPhone griping rages online, it looks like Apple's sterling reputation will emerge untarnished.

"The objective reality is that



The entrance to the Apple store is seen on New York's Fifth Avenue. Apple's reputation doesn't seem to have taken a hit from the iPhone 3G's problematic launch.

Apple does plenty of wrong," said Peter Fader, a marketing professor at the Wharton School of the Uni-

versity of Pennsylvania. However, Fader said, the company's loyal fans, and even casual users, have come

Even as iPhone griping rages online, it looks like Apple's reputation will not be tarnished.

to identify so strongly with Apple's individualistic vibe that they're willing to look the other way.

"Very few companies have this kind of iconic status where anything they do, even if it is mediocre, will automatically have a halo around it," he said.

Kern Bruce, a 25-year-old Web designer in Boston, waited in line for 13 hours to buy an original iPhone. He sold it to upgrade to a 3G.

"There was no going back at that point, but after I sold it, I quickly started to regret it," he said. Bruce's complaints echo countless Web forum posts: The device gets uncomfortably warm. Programs crash. And it so seldom connects to AT&T's speedier third-generation, or 3G, data network that Bruce carries the iPhone around with 3G turned off.

Apple, which declined to comment for this story, said little as complaints rolled in and then released a software fix it said would improve the device's ability to connect to 3G networks. Since then, users on various sites have reported no improvement.

Bruce also recently returned a MacBook Air because it got too hot and said his Apple cinema-display monitor sports burned-in images.

Yet when asked whether he'd abandon Apple, Bruce said no. Macs are "a lot better than the alternative," he said. JESSICA MINTZ (AP)

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September 21
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1 The amount, in millions of dollars, that the Boeing Co. has announced it will donate to help build the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on the National Mall. The gift was announced at a unity breakfast at the Democratic National Convention for the 45th anniversary of the "I Have a Dream" speech Thursday.

Local

In Brief

WASHINGTON
D.C. School Board President Will Not Run for Re-Election

D.C. State Board of Education President Robert C. Bobb won't be running for re-election in November. Bobb didn't meet Wednesday's 5 p.m. filing deadline to get his name on the ballot. Election officials say he never picked up the necessary forms. Earlier this month, he'd expressed misgivings about the board transitioning to an all-elected body. It currently has elected members and two mayoral appointees. When Bobb was first elected nearly two years ago, the board had control of day-to-day school operations. Today the board operates more like a state board. The board's role changed last year after D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty took over the public school system. (AP)



Bobb

Three branches of the Fairfax County Public Library are relocating temporarily while they undergo renovations. The Thomas Jefferson Library in Falls Church, the Richard Byrd Library in Springfield and the Martha Washington Library in Alexandria will all close within two months and move to temporary locations. The exact dates of the closings haven't been determined yet. The renovations are expected to take at least a year and a half. (AP)

FAIRFAX, VA.
3 Fairfax Library Branches Relocate for Renovations

Three branches of the Fairfax County Public Library are relocating temporarily while they undergo renovations. The Thomas Jefferson Library in Falls Church, the Richard Byrd Library in Springfield and the Martha Washington Library in Alexandria will all close within two months and move to temporary locations. The exact dates of the closings haven't been determined yet. The renovations are expected to take at least a year and a half. (AP)

Police: Bloods, Crips Active in D.C.

West Coast gangs also emerge from Prince William to Baltimore

The emergence of the Bloods and the Crips, West Coast gangs that are establishing themselves in the Washington area, has contributed to several homicides in Prince George's County this year and has become a growing concern in the District, law enforcement officials say.

In the Trinidad neighborhood, which had a spate of violence this

summer, authorities say young people are wearing Bloods colors, flashing the gang's hand signs and selling drugs near a community recreation center.

The Bloods, as well as their rival, the Crips, have emerged as suspects in several crimes in a wide swath from Prince William County to Baltimore. "We are seeing their numbers growing right now," said Capt. Bill Lynn, commander of the Prince George's police gang unit. "The Crips and Bloods are the focus for law enforcement now, not only here,

“We are seeing a growing presence in the graffiti, the clothing [and] the symbols.”

CATHY LANIER, D.C. POLICE CHIEF

but around the region, because of the violence they perpetrate.”

“We’ve started seeing more and more signs of the Crips and Bloods

— more Bloods than Crips,” said D.C. Police Chief Cathy Lanier. “We are seeing a growing presence in the graffiti, the clothing, the symbols.”

Assistant U.S. Attorney Albert Herring, who specializes in gang intervention and prevention in the District, said, “I think what’s difficult to determine at this point is how much of that activity is associated with people who are actually Bloods, in sanctioned sets, and people who are claiming to be affiliated but are not.”

AVIS THOMAS-LESTER (THE WASHINGTON POST)

CHANTILLY, VA. | A NEW HOME



CAROL GUZY/TWP

CREATURE COMFORTERS: Kathy Barsotti, left, and Lauren Bahl transport foster puppies on Thursday morning. Vans from A Forever-Home, a pet rescue foundation, transported more than 1,000 puppies rescued during a West Virginia puppy mill bust to awaiting foster families in the middle of the night.

Md. Lawmaker Wants Probe of Bay Bridge

BALTIMORE | An Eastern Shore lawmaker is asking state officials to commission an independent safety examination of the Bay Bridge.

Republican Sen. E.J. Pipkin said his “confidence in the bridge safety inspection process has been shaken.”

In a letter to the Maryland Transportation Authority, Pipkin says corrosion in the steel inside the bridge’s concrete barrier wall would not have been found had it

not been for the special inspection that began after a fatal crash Aug. 10. The crash killed a tractor-trailer driver when his rig broke through a barrier and plunged into the bay.

Transportation officials on Tuesday closed one lane of the eastbound span for emergency repairs.

The authority did not respond Wednesday to a request for comment on Pipkin’s remarks. (AP)

The Lotteries

Thursday, Aug. 28

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	1-3-9
Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.)	6-3-1
Mid-day DC 4	2-4-1-5
Evening DC 4 (Wed.)	3-6-9-3
Rolling Cash Five (Wed.)	12-24-29-30-31
Daily 6 (Wed.)	2-4-16-25-33-39 Bonus: 3
Hot Lotto (Wed.)	2-10-15-21-37 (15)

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	7-5-6
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	1-5-5
Mid-day Pick 4	2-0-8-8
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	8-5-8-6
Match 5 (Wed.)	1-6-25-31-33 Bonus: 29
Lotto (Wed.)	14-15-16-27-35-41

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 (Thurs.)	2-0-5
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	3-2-8
Mid-day Pick 4 (Thurs.)	7-9-6-3

Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	1-9-8-5
Mid-day Cash 5 (Thurs.)	8-12-21-30-33
Evening Cash 5 (Wed.)	10-18-21-30-33
Win for Life (Wed.)	2-12-24-27-31-37

MULTI-STATE GAMES

Powerball (Wed.)	13-31-36-48-49 (11)
Power Play	2X

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

MEGA MILLIONS

DRAWINGS TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

\$132

MILLION

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Sunday in The Washington Post



GOTCHA! Parking enforcement officer Cheryl Wilkins, 42, issues a ticket for a vehicle in her zone, which is N and O streets NW between 19th and 21st streets in D.C.

Love to Hate 'Em

Learn to appreciate those workers who often drive you crazy

IN SUNDAY SOURCE| It's Labor Day weekend, so we paused to think about work. Then we started thinking about people whose work attracts the suspicion, dismissal or loathing of the general public. The auditor: pickpocketing our hard-earned money. The used-car salesman: passive-aggressive liar with a glinting Rolex. The criminal defense attorney: slimeball in a suit, standing up for nefarious creatures. The ballpark umpire: blind, deaf, clearly on the other team's payroll. The parking enforcement officer: for the love of God, \$40 for going two minutes over the meter? Prejudiced generalizations, surely. Auditors and umpires are merely convenient targets for our person-

al frustrations. Car salesmen and defense attorneys are stock villains in pop culture, not necessarily bad guys in real life. And without parking enforcement, our streets would be jammed with scofflaws' cars. Instead of appreciating our work today, we're going to appreciate their work and the nonsense they have to put up with by virtue of their titles. We talked to all of them. Today, we'll share one interview: **The Parking Enforcement Officer** Cheryl Wilkins, 42, walks her beat like a regular cop. She knows the faces and cars of the people who live on N and O streets NW between 19th and 21st. Residents have invited her in for meals and turned to her to solve certain mysteries. She's all smiles, but she means business: She will ticket your car if you're one minute over the parking limit. Furious drivers have hurled every kind of invective at her, but the law's the law. Her job is to enforce it.

We spent an hour with her on a beautiful August morning **What tricks do people pull to avoid a ticket?** Sometimes they'll move from one location to another inside the same **for more ...** **IN SUNDAY SOURCE** Read the other interviews with members of reviled professions. Plus, get advice from the Three Wise Guys and info about new movies, music and games. **IN The Washington Post** zone. I'll have to go through and make sure my eyes aren't playing tricks on me. Their objective is to try and beat me. **What's the best part of the job?** Being outdoors and meeting a variety of people.

The worst part? The irate citizens. The profanity. It's not every day. Usually, people are mad at themselves. If their tone is too high, I'll say, "Hold on, calm down, let me explain." In most cases, I allow them to vent first. A ticket can be just the trigger to something going on in their lives, and I'm just the person to take it out on. I maintain my voice. My focus is to not allow anyone else to hear me, so I don't appear combative. If you cannot handle the public, you do not want this job. **I bet you hear a lot of wild excuses.** Whenever I do, I say, "That is really a good one. I've never heard that before." That defuses the situation. *She gets to a BMW on N Street. I want that car. She tickets it.* **Any advice for drivers?** Blinkers are a red flag for us. Hazard lights are for emergencies, not for telling parking officers "I'll be right back." Take your time to observe all the signs, the red and the green: what you can't do and what you can do. And I'd ask people to give us respect, like us or not. DAN ZAK (THE WASHINGTON POST)

5 more reasons to read

THESE STORIES AND MORE THIS SUNDAY



Etched in Pain For many who have lost loved ones to urban violence, portrait tattoos are a way of preserving their memories. **STYLE & ARTS**

Hustle, Muscle Is there a gas crisis going on? Warren Brown drives the new Dodge Challenger R/T Coupe with its 370-horsepower hemi V8 and gets nothing but praise, envy and thumbs up. **CARS**

In the Beginning What did Washington look like before Washington existed? High-tech computer wizardry and good old-fashioned historical sleuthing are re-creating the city's origins. **THE MAGAZINE**



By the Book The autumn lineup includes new works by Maya Angelou, Stephen King, Toni Morrison, Robert Harris, Philip Roth and Garrison Keillor. **BOOK WORLD**

Kids' Stuff We look at what's new, fun and educational in children's programming this fall. **TV WEEK**



COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Heisman Hype: Last year's winner, Tim Tebow, is an obvious favorite, but there are a handful of guys who could get in his way. | 14

Sports Weekend

New Man in Charge



James Franklin, left, is back at Maryland this year after stints with the Green Bay Packers and Kansas State Wildcats.

Franklin takes over the Terps' offense to give Friedgen a break

TERPS FOOTBALL | James Franklin is back in College Park to simplify Ralph Friedgen's life.

Friedgen — fiery, passionate and a perfectionist — ran himself ragged the last two seasons trying to fulfill the duties of head coach and offensive coordinator. At the end of the day, weary was almost always a fair way to describe the 61-year-old Friedgen.

In the off-season, he turned to Franklin, who had left to pursue bigger opportunities after he was Maryland's receivers coach from 2000 to 2004.

"Last year, I was running around 100 mph, really trying to do about three different jobs," Friedgen said.

RUNNING THE SHOW

Jordan Steffy gets his second crack at quarterback beginning Saturday versus Delaware. Steffy didn't take advantage of his opportunities in 2007, and the Terps won't let him struggle too much. A couple things to watch for:



→ **Can he feast on lesser opponents?** Steffy must build his confidence and cement his position with strong play against Delaware and Middle Tennessee State.

→ **Does he play fast and decisively?** Small hesitations led Steffy to take too many sacks and throw ill-advised passes a year ago. The Terrapins want to see him establish a rhythm and a command of the offense early.

"My life [now] almost has some sanity to it."

Franklin, for his part, is trying to also simplify life for the players. After serving as receivers coach for the Green Bay Packers in 2005 and as offensive coordinator for Kansas State the last two seasons, Franklin has blended philosophies learned under Friedgen during his pre-

vious tenure with those gleaned from the NFL and the Big 12. He's toned down the complexity Friedgen's offense was known for, hoping that minimizing the mental burden on players will allow them to maximize their production on the field.

"Ralph, his system as a whole was really complex. It wasn't com-

plex on just the quarterback. It was complex on the O-line. It was complex on the receivers, which is unusual. It was complex for the tight ends," Franklin said. "We have a lot of team speed and I want them to play fast. In order to play fast, you've

Late Game

→ The Redskins-Jaguars pre-season game ended after Express' deadline. Get results and analysis — and, more importantly, injury reports | **Today, Sports**

The Washington Post

got to understand the system."

The first order of business this fall was to name a quarterback, and Franklin and Friedgen made the controversial decision to start Jordan Steffy in Saturday's season opener against Delaware. The senior began last season as the starter, but after an injury and mediocre performances, he was replaced by Chris Turner.

But Steffy has earned the job again and, Franklin said, his first job will be to get the ball in the hands of the team's playmakers, namely junior receiver Darrius Heyward-Bey and sophomore tailback Da'Rel Scott.

If things go well for the Terrapins' offense, things could be looking up for Franklin. The 36-year-old is also the assistant head coach, a title that makes him the favorite to ultimately succeed Friedgen. It would seem a logical transition.

"My time at Green Bay, my time at K-State had a major impact in me in terms of plays, but really overall philosophy and the foundation of who I am is Ralph Friedgen," Franklin said. "Plays are somewhat different, but the concepts aren't that much different. Football's football." **DEREK TURNER**

TV Lineup



Venus Williams advanced easily Thursday. The U.S. Open is on all weekend.

friday

7 P.M. The Orioles play the AL-best Rays in Tampa Bay on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. **MASN2**

7:35 P.M. The Nats host the Braves all weekend in what amounts to practice for these two teams that aren't in playoff contention. **Ch. 20**

saturday

11 A.M. Saturday's U.S. Open coverage starts at 11 a.m. and goes until 6 p.m. That's a lot of tennis. **CBS**

Noon Virginia Tech's season starts with what should be a relatively easy game against East Carolina. **ESPN**

3:30 P.M. Virginia starts with a bang, playing at No. 3 Southern Cal in the first game of the season. **ESPN2/ABC**

3:45 P.M. Jordan Steffy and the Terps get their first test against mighty Delaware. **ESPNU**

4 P.M. This game between the AL-best Tampa Bay Rays and the AL's 11th-best Baltimore Orioles is on national TV. **FOX**

7:30 P.M. When D.C. United and the New York Red Bulls take the same field, the games are almost always interesting. **FSC**

8:30 P.M. Usually, all the week 1 games are pretty easy. Not for Illinois and Missouri. **ESPN**

sunday

8 P.M. The Dodgers and Diamondbacks are battling for a playoff spot out of the NL West. They wrap up their series on national TV. **ESPN**

GOLF | It's in the game The only golfing Tiger Woods is doing these days is in video games. "I do play quite a bit," Woods said. "A heck of a lot more now," since undergoing surgery on his left knee to repair a ligament. Woods said that he plays friends in tournaments on EA Sports' Tiger Woods



PGA Tour game. He plays as self-created characters: "One's a really buffed-out dude," and another is pudgy. Woods said he actually learns from playing the virtual courses. "I've had certain putts I had in real-life competition break the same way and by the same amount," he said. "It's amazing." **(AP)**

Weekend Sports

OUR '08 PICKS

Ian Herbert

EXPRESS
SPORTS
EDITOR

NATIONAL CHAMPION

Georgia (13-2)

RUNNER-UP

Clemson (13-2)

ACC CHAMP

Clemson def.
North Carolina

SEC CHAMP

Georgia def. LSU

BIG TEN CHAMP

Ohio State

BIG EAST CHAMP

South Florida

PAC-10 CHAMP

USC

BIG 12 CHAMP

Texas Tech def.
Missouri

HEISMAN WINNER

K. Moreno, RB,
Georgia

RUNNER-UP

Chris Wells, RB,
Ohio State

LEADING RUSHER

Mike Ford, South
Florida

GEORGIA'S FIRST LOSS

at LSU,
week 9

NO. OF TEBOW TDS

42

BEST COACH

Pete Carroll, USC

1ST COACH FIRED

Kirk Ferentz, Iowa

BEST GAME

Florida at
Georgia, week 10

BCS SURPRISE

Texas Tech

MOST OVERRATED

Ohio State

FIRST UPSET

Illinois def.
Missouri, week 1

HEISMAN PRIMER

It's a competition that requires college players to be nearly perfect for 12-plus games and demands that their teams be top-notch, too. Becoming a Heisman Trophy winner is extraordinarily difficult — and predicting the winner might be just as hard. Last year, we left Tim Tebow out of the top five — and had John David Booty in the mix. Whoops. This year, we think all five of these guys (and probably more) have what it takes to win. We rated their chances out of 10. IAN HERBERT (EXPRESS)

OUR '08 PICKS

Matt Swenson

EXPRESS
SPORTS
COLUMNIST

NATIONAL CHAMPION

Florida (13-1)

RUNNER-UP

Ohio State (12-2)

ACC CHAMP

Virginia Tech def.
Clemson

SEC CHAMP

Florida def.
Georgia

BIG TEN CHAMP

Ohio State

BIG EAST CHAMP

West Virginia

PAC-10 CHAMP

USC

BIG 12 CHAMP

Oklahoma def.
Missouri

HEISMAN WINNER

Tim Tebow, QB,
Florida

RUNNER-UP

Chris Wells, RB,
Ohio State

LEADING RUSHER

K. Moreno, Georgia

GEORGIA'S FIRST LOSS

at South
Carolina, week 3

NO. OF TEBOW TDS

60

BEST COACH

Nick Saban, Alabama

1ST COACH FIRED

Dave Wannstedt,
Pittsburgh

BEST GAME

Florida at
Georgia, week 10

BCS SURPRISE

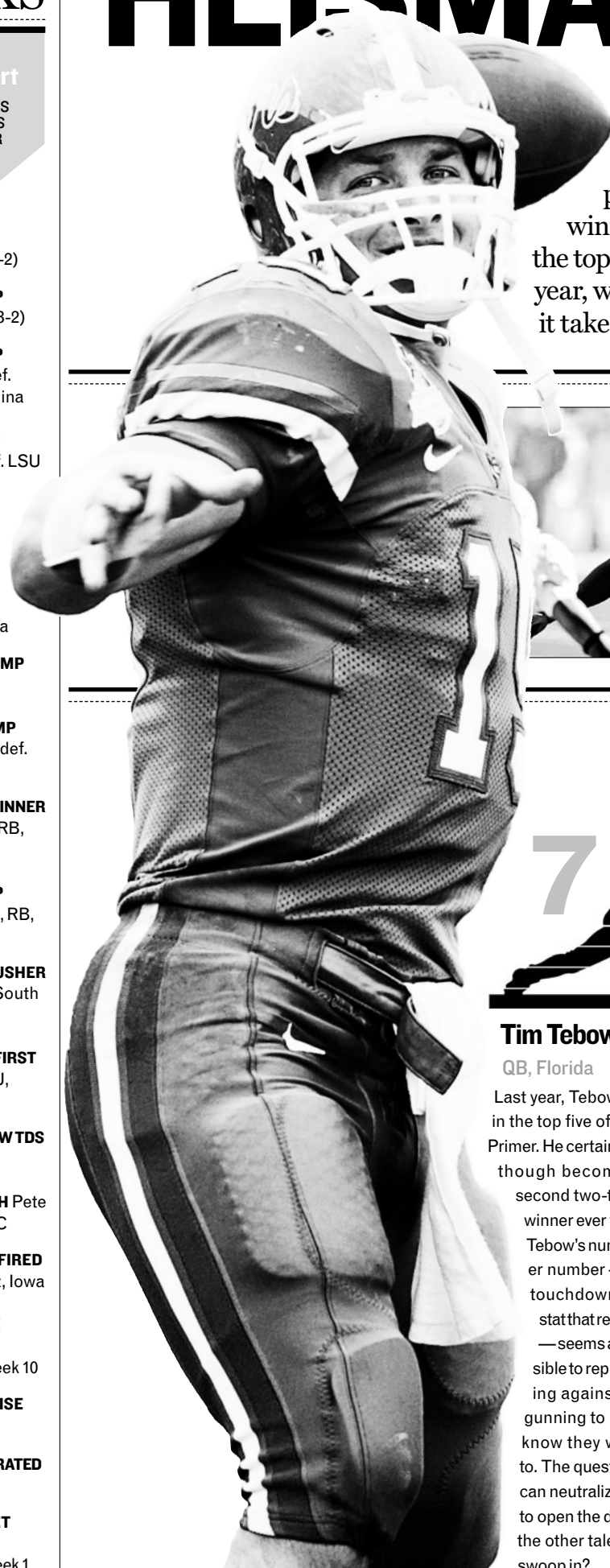
BYU

MOST OVERRATED

Clemson

FIRST UPSET

UCLA def.
Tennessee, week 1



Chris Wells, RB, Ohio State

The only running back still in college who rushed for more yards than "Beanie" Wells last year is Kent State's Eugene Jarvis. A 237 pounds, Wells is a bruising runner, and he made it into the end zone 15 times last season. Now a junior, Wells is the No. 1 threat for the second-ranked Buckeyes, who churn out Heisman winners. If they make it past Southern Cal in week 3, there is going to be national title talk all the way through November, which can only help Beanie's chances.



Tim Tebow

QB, Florida

Last year, Tebow wasn't even in the top five of the Heisman Primer. He certainly is this year, though becoming just the second two-time Heisman winner ever won't be easy. Tebow's numbers, or rather number — his 55 total touchdowns is the only stat that really stands out — seems almost impossible to repeat while playing against SEC teams gunning to stop him. We know they won't be able to. The question: Can they can neutralize him enough to open the door for one of the other talented stars to swoop in?



Knowshon Moreno, RB, Georgia

This is one of those "best player on the best team" situations. Moreno burst onto the scene as a freshman last year, rushing for 1,334 yards and 14 touchdowns. He had a stretch of five straight 100-yard games during the SEC season that included a 188-yard, three-touchdown performance in a win over Florida. He's proven he can do it, but going against SEC defenses every week can also ruin a Heisman run. Just ask Darren McFadden.



Chase Daniel, QB, Missouri

The knocks on Daniel are that he's too small and he plays for Missouri, which won't get nearly as much hype as Florida, Ohio State or Georgia this season. But last year, with the same shortcomings, the 6-foot QB made it to New York as a Heisman finalist by having one of the most successful seasons in the country. He threw for 4,306 yards and 33 touchdowns while running for four more. Those are Tebow-esque numbers. Well, almost.



Michael Crabtree, WR, Texas Tech

Crabtree is the Colt Brennan of this season. Last year, as a freshman, the 6-foot-3 wide receiver caught 134 passes for 1,962 yards. His 22 touchdowns were six more than the next closest receiver. Also like Brennan last year, Crabtree has something else other than stats going for him this year: His Red Raiders are looking to make some noise and are good enough to make a run at the Big 12 title.



MUST-SEE MATCHUPS ►► THE GAMES TO WATCH EACH WEEK THIS YEAR

We know some people like to use their Saturdays for things other than watching football — hiking, drinking, Bed, Bath & Beyond. So, we compiled this list of must-watch games to help you plan ahead. For the die-hard fans, we've also included a look at which game to look forward to each week.

WEEK 1, AUG. 30**Appalachian State
At No. 7 Louisiana State**

It's pretty obvious why this game is on the list. No one expects Appalachian State to actually do it again — pull off an upset of a top-10 team on the road in week 1. But how cool would it be if the Mountaineers did?



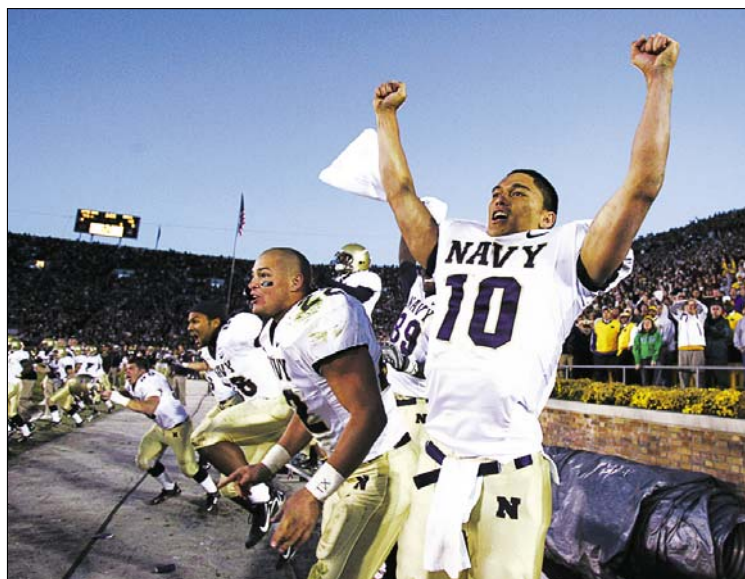
USC's Joe McKnight will carry the load.

WEEK 3, SEPT. 13**No. 2 Ohio State
At No. 3 Southern Cal**

This game is the entire season for the Buckeyes, who face very little competition in the Big Ten and play powerhouses Youngstown State, Ohio and Troy in their other non-conference games. Ohio State has become the master of playing no one and still reaching the national title game. Can USC put a halt to that trend early this season?

WEEK 10, NOV. 1**No. 5 Florida at No. 1 Georgia**

The chance that both of these top-five teams have survived the first 10 weeks of the season while playing in the SEC is slim. But they're easily two of the best teams in the country with two top Heisman contenders, and they will be fighting for a spot in the SEC title game. Last year, Georgia just missed a spot in that game, and it likely cost them the national title.



Last year, Navy rolled into Notre Dame and stunned the Irish in triple overtime.

WEEK 12, NOV. 15**Notre Dame at Navy**

Last year's 3-9 season was a huge disappointment for the screaming fans in South Bend. None of the nine Irish losses was as devastating as losing to Navy at home in triple overtime. This game could be for a bowl game but is likely just for pride. Still, what more do you need?

WEEK 15, DEC. 6**No. 19 South Florida
At No. 8 West Virginia**

This is championship week, so you could choose to tune into the SEC or Big 12 title games instead. But it's likely that this game will be a title game without the name or neutral site. They're the two best teams in the Big East, so this game during the last week of the year is like Michigan-Ohio State — only with better competition.



West Virginia has a new coach, but QB Pat White is still running the show.

Best of the Rest

WEEK 2: Miami at No. 5 Florida Most of the big shots schedule a patsy for week 2. Florida has rival Miami.

WEEK 4: No. 17 Virginia Tech at North Carolina This is a dangerous game for the Hokies. UNC has gotten consistently better since Butch Davis arrived.

WEEK 5: No. 20 Illinois at No. 20 Penn State After Ohio State, the next tier of Big Ten teams is Wisconsin, Illinois and Penn State.

WEEK 6: No. 2 Ohio State at No. 13 Wisconsin Two Big Ten games in a row is boring. But this is the Buckeyes' most dangerous conference game.

WEEK 7: No. 9 Clemson at No. 23 Wake Forest Watch for Clemson RB James Davis in this game between top ACC teams.

WEEK 8: No. 14 Kansas at No. 4 Oklahoma The Big 12 will almost certainly have at least one team in the national title hunt. It could be the winner of this game.

WEEK 9: No. 10 Auburn at No. 8 West Virginia It's rare to get a game between two top teams from different conferences midseason.

WEEK 11: No. 24 Alabama at No. 7 LSU Nick Saban returns to his old stomping ground to try to upset LSU.

WEEK 13: No. 16 BYU at Utah This game near the end of the season could be for a BCS berth if BYU is undefeated.

WEEK 14: Baylor at No. 12 Texas Tech Watch for Heisman contender Michael Crabtree, the Red Raiders' star WR, against last year's 110th-ranked pass defense.



Liberian goalkeeper Louis Crayton has posted two shutouts in three league games.

All-Important Stretch Starts

D.C. United's next 16 games will determine playoffs, Open Cup

UNITED | Saturday's game against visiting New York will begin a potentially historic two month stretch during which D.C. United will play 16 games, each one of them critical.

A U.S. Open Cup title, a spot in next spring's CONCACAF Champions League quarterfinals and an MLS playoff berth will be on the line. While GM Dave Kasper admitted that it "will be a difficult stretch", there is optimism that important players returning from injury and three recent signings will help an inconsistent 10-10-1 team win when it matters most.

Kasper said that playmaker Marcelo Gallardo, who has missed two months after hernia surgery, and midfielder Fred (hamstring) will be back "within the next 7-10 days," meaning they likely will mess the Sept. 3 Open Cup final but will factor in this fall. Defender Gonzalo Peralta (ham-

string) also should return soon.

When they do, they will join a side that appears to have been improved by three key acquisitions. Defender/midfielder Ivan Guerrero, midfielder and former Virginia Cavalier Joe Vide and goalkeeper Louis Crayton "have all stepped right in and made big contributions," Kasper said.

Guerrero and Vide were surplus to requirements at expansion San Jose but have found their niche with United, the former as a tireless left-sided workhorse and the latter as a central, two-way player whose half-volley against Colorado last Saturday is MLS's goal of the week. Crayton's arrival may prove to be the most significant. The 30-year-old, who arrived from Swiss champion Basel, has added some much-needed presence in the penalty area and his two shutouts in three league games surpass Zach Wells' one in 17.

"He managed the box really well. The communication seems to be better," coach Tom Soehn said after the 3-0 defeat of Colorado. "So far he has adjusted well to the game here." BRIAN STRAUS

Pacman Allowed to Play This Season

NFL | Adam "Pacman" Jones has been cleared to play this season.

The cornerback-kick returner was suspended all last season, when he was with the Titans, because of an accumulation of arrests and legal problems. He was traded to the Cowboys in April, then allowed in

June by commissioner Roger Goodell to join the team in training camp and in preseason games.

Goodell, however, was still waiting to decide whether to let Jones play in the regular season. That news came Thursday, hours before Dallas' final preseason game. (AP)

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Weekend

Swengali

NFL | BY MATT SWENSON

More Meaningful Games Is Good

MORE FOOTBALL. THE IDEA is so ingenious that it's a wonder no one thought of it sooner.

According to The Washington Post's Mark Maske, the NFL is leaning toward expanding the regular season to 17 or 18 games — and shortening the preseason.

While a few years away, the prospect is exciting from a fan's point of view. It means fewer meaningless, boring games and more of the real stuff.

From the league's vantage point, this is clearly a winner. An extra game or two will bring in tons of extra cash. And, as The Post reported, the longer season would allow for more overseas games, which would only add to the NFL's popu-

From the NFL's vantage point, this is clearly a winner. An extra game or two will bring in tons of cash.

larity worldwide.

Then there are the players, and here is where it will get interesting during the next collective bargaining session.

To a layman, football players — just like other pro athletes and movie stars — are already overpaid. Yet you know they'll demand contract adjustments for playing more. To be fair to the gridiron warriors, a greater risk of injury would be a given.

Since it appears to be a matter of when — not if — the NFL expands the schedule, I have one suggestion: The rosters should grow with the addition of games to ensure the Super Bowl champion won't be a winner by attrition. Five extra spots would give each team enough of a cushion to absorb more games.

A day with a shorter preseason is coming. Hallelujah.

@ To reach Matt Swenson, e-mail matt.swenson@readexpress.com

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PIANO POP

Fallback Career: Remember Alicia Witt, semi-famous TV actress? She sings, too! Specifically, she sings at Iota tomorrow night. | 19

Entertainment Weekend

A Winter's Tale

Film thrives on winter chill and powerful lead performances

FILM | When the two women first cross the river together — in the dead of winter, in a rickety Dodge Spirit — Melissa Leo's character, Ray, says what the audience is thinking: "This is so ... stupid."

Well, yes, it is, considering that each time she and Misty Upham's Lila drive across the rugged, icy expanse that separates Quebec and the Mohawk Indian Reservation of upstate New York, they have illegal immigrants stowed in the trunk — men and women from China and Pakistan willing to take this risk for the possibility of a better life.

It's a miracle Ray and Lila make it from one side to the other once, much less several times, without getting caught or, worse, falling through the precarious surface to their deaths. But then, "Frozen River" is a bit of a miracle itself: a small movie with hugely moving performances, one with a vivid sense of place that's never pretentious in its indie aesthetic.

"Frozen River" is so quiet and precise and self-assured, you'd never know it's the feature debut of writer-



GUESS WHAT THEY HAVE TO CROSS ON THE WAY: Misty Upham and Melissa Leo smuggle illegal immigrants into the U.S. in Courtney Hunt's film "Frozen River."

director Courtney Hunt. Here, she's come up with that rare thing: a film that feels completely original.

Ray works as a cashier at the local dollar store and is trying to save enough money for the down payment on a new doublewide trailer, which would be a huge step up from the cramped quarters she currently shares with her two sons.

Only when Ray meets Lila does her luck look like it might change. Lila, a Mohawk, is a smuggler — first cigarettes, now people — and she recruits Ray to help her ferry her illegal cargo across the river between Canada and the reservation. It's a segment that border patrol agents can't monitor because it's technically Mohawk territory, which Hunt depicts with flat, hard light and blinding reflections off the jagged snow banks.

The two form an unlikely and uneasy alliance — "I don't usually work with whites," Lila says in her typical clipped sullenness — but the money is good, and both women need it. Both are also survivors, which gives them strength and makes them dangerous.

But Hunt makes plenty of room in her script to reveal the softer side of Ray and Lila, to shed some unexpected light on their motivation. She wraps up "Frozen River" with one of the loveliest endings you'll see in a while — one that offers just the right glimmer of hope without eroding the film's bracing sense of realism. **CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)**

Got Plans?

FOR COMPLETE WEEKEND LISTINGS SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT



Picnicking by the pandas is romantic unless Tai Shan is in gangsta mode.

Do you know of any romantic picnic areas in D.C.? I was thinking of taking a trip to the National Zoo. Do they allow you to bring your own food inside?

Bring your own food and drinks to the National Zoo. You can snack while overlooking the pandas. I also like Hains Point, around the FDR Memorial and the World War I Memorial.

→ **National Zoo**, 3001 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-673-4800. (Woodley Park)

→ **Hains Point**, 1090 Ohio Drive SW; 202-426-6841.

Is it worth it to try Chef Spike's restaurant, Good Stuff Eatery?

Yes, it is definitely worth trying Spike's newish joint. I wanted to hate the place, given all the hype, but the shop definitely offers a great burger. The toasted marshmallow milk shake is my idea of heaven. If it's a great burger you're after, don't sleep on Ray's Hell-Burger. This is the best burger in town these days.

→ **Good Stuff Eatery**, 303 Pennsylvania Ave. SE; 202-543-8222. (Capitol South)

→ **Ray's Hell-Burger**, 1713 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-841-0001. (Court House)

The Going Out Gurus think you should get out more. Join the discussion Thursdays at 1 p.m. | WASHINGTONPOST.COM/liveonline

Where Women Aren't People

'Invisible Women' come into focus in a doctor's new book

BOOK | Most job contracts don't include mentions of the death penalty, but when Dr. Qanta A. Ahmed agreed to a new job in a Saudi Arabian hospital, she became subject to the laws of that country which can include decapitation, as she writes in her memoir, "In the Land of Invisible

Women."

After being denied a visa to stay in the United States, Ahmed decides at "the spur of the moment" to accept a job practicing intensive care medicine at the King Fahad National Guard Hospital in Riyadh, the capitol of Saudi Arabia.

During her two-year stint, she encounters almost daily situations for which no American medical school could have prepared her: a female patient who is comatose but



Dr. Qanta A. Ahmed spent two years working as a doctor in Saudi Arabia.

whose face still needs to be properly veiled; female medical personnel trying to listen attentively to a patient's heartbeat through the rustling fabric of an abayah, the long black head covering worn by women in Saudi Arabia.

While the book is by a woman and discusses women in the kingdom, it would be a mistake to classify this book as being for or about just women. The doctor's insights are fascinating for readers of either gender. **REBECCA SANTANA (AP)**

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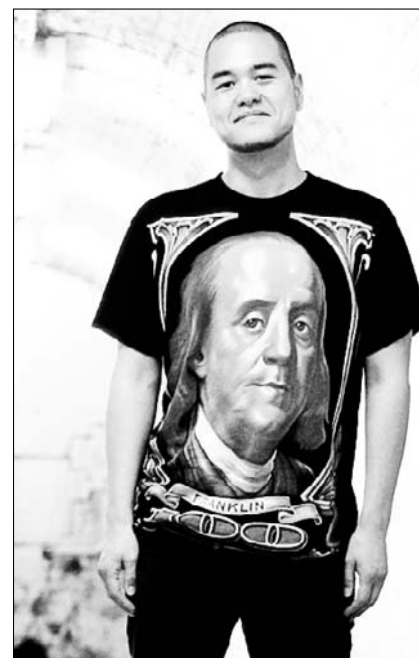
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Nightlife Agenda

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TONIGHT? BY FRITZ HAHN, RHOME ANDERSON AND DAVID MALITZ

FRIDAY

When Tittsworth decided it was time to graduate to bigger things from being a successful local DJ and promoter, he implemented a disciplined plan for worldwide domination. He had already paid mad dues honing his party-rocking skills, but they didn't earn him the attention he deserved until he started pumping his Baltimore club remixes into the blogosphere hype machine. Titts had studied the original B-more masters in ways that a lot of the new jack hipster kids had not, so his work quickly rose to the top of the club world's love affair with Charm City's dirty, frenetic dance music. He also has production chops, a sense of humor and a knack for concepts that surpasses the masses of DJs trying to capitalize off of a fad. So now he circles the globe and is in the perfect position to drop a full-length record. His



SHE ONCE WAS FAMOUS, HE WILL BE SOON: Tittsworth, above, is poised for stardom in Baltimore, while Alicia Witt, left, once starred in "Urban Legend" and now sort of looks like Tori Amos.

recently released "12 Steps" is full meal of Tittsworth club bangers for party people who've been getting by on a string of appetizers. For the official release at the 9:30 club tonight, Titts will be bringing it back home to D.C. with Dave Nada,

Will Eastman and Gavin Holland, as well as his Detroit counterpart in filthy ditties, DJ Assault.

We swear this isn't just lazy journo-speak, but you really can tell a lot about a band by the influences listed on its MySpace page. For

locals Sugarcane Crawl there's just a single influence — "early Shaggs." It doesn't get more awesome than that. Nevermind that Sugarcane Crawl doesn't sound much like the famously primitive late-'60s outsider legends. There's definitely a primi-

tive quality to the band's music, but there's also, well, competence. And an appealing, grimy, garage-blues sound with female vocals that have some attitude. The band is just getting started, so keep an eye on it. Sugarcane Crawl is opening for one of our longtime local faves, the Hall Monitors, who will hopefully be releasing a proper album sometime in the not-too-distant future. Jupiter One gets things started at the **ROCK AND ROLL HOTEL**.

SATURDAY

Here was an oddity spotted while browsing the Iota listings. Justin Jones and the Driving Rain — local roots rockers, nothing weird about that. Opening act ... Alicia Witt? The name rang a bell, and it is indeed the actress who you might recognize from "Four Rooms," or TV shows like "Cybill," that sitcom your parents made you watch with them back in 1995. There's nothing particularly exciting about her confessional piano ballads, but if you want to see minor celebrity in Clarendon, hey, here's your chance.

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BOTTLE SHOCK (PG-13, 103 minutes)

Perhaps the film should have been called "The Grapes of Froth," because it tells such a happy story: how the vintners of Napa Valley won the blind tasting known as the Judgment of Paris in 1976 and put their little piece of California paradise on the world wine stage for all time. What a movie: booze, Alan Rickman and really cool pickup trucks. (SH)

BRIDESHEAD REVISITED (PG-13, 135 minutes)

This feature-length version of Evelyn Waugh's tale of homosexuality, class envy, God and redemption must highlight certain themes, de-emphasizing others for the sake of brevity. Director Julian Jarrold's take on the idea-rich novel has become a more narrowly focused story of a love triangle. At the apex stands Charles Ryder (Matthew Goode), a middle-class English atheist who becomes infatuated



IT APPEARS UNCOUTH: Steve Coogan directs raunchy Shakespeare that Amy Poehler shamelessly defends in "Hamlet 2."

with the family of Sebastian Flyte (Ben Wishaw), an alcoholic, gay Catholic aristocrat who befriends Charles while the two are students at Oxford. In the other corner is Sebastian's sister Julia (Hayley Atwell), a morose beauty with whom Charles begins

a doomed affair. (MO)

THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13, 152 minutes)

Heath Ledger's performance is a subtle, nuanced piece of acting so powerful it banishes all memories of the handsome Aussie behind it. He's supple of body and

expressive with only his eyes, and his voice has undulations of irony and mockery and psychopathology. But when the Joker is absent, the film loses most of its energy and becomes nothing but a pretty-boy face-off between Christian Bale (Batman)

and Aaron Eckhart. (SH)

DEATH RACE (R, 89 minutes) It may not be possible to make a film with less plot and more action without catalyzing some drastic change in the whole form, like adding that disastrous last dollop of butter to a delicate French sauce. If a movie could drag its knuckles on the ground, this one would leave eight little tracks in the sand. The film, starring Jason Statham as an ex-con, is supposedly based on the 1975 cult favorite "Death Race 2000," which involved a savage cross-country road rally in heavily armored cars. Although some critics detected elements of satire and political commentary in the original, all of that has been successfully eliminated from the current model. It isn't so much a movie as a superheated, highly conductive substance for the pure transmission of masculine aggression. (PK)

FLY ME TO THE MOON (G, 90 minutes)

The first animated movie created specifically for the 3-D format, "Fly" boasts knock-your-socks-off visuals. If only the story lived up to the special effects. Nat, IQ and Scooter (voices of Trevor Gagnon, Philip Daniel Bolden and David Gore) are juvenile houseflies with big

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dreams, fueled largely by the tall tales of Nat's grandfather (Christopher Lloyd), who rode with Amelia Earhart during her solo transatlantic flight. Boys being boys — even when they're the size of raisins — they sneak onto the 1969 spacecraft carrying Neil Armstrong and crew to the moon. Needless to say, something goes wrong. (M)

HAMLET 2 (R, 92 minutes) This dazzling little comedy seems, at first glance, to be having a lot of fun with the stock figures of the high school musical and inspirational teacher flicks. But Noah Sapperstein, a diminutive, ninth-grade drama critic played by Shea Pepe, quotes the French literary critic Roland Barthes and all but begs you to take the film seriously as social commentary. Sapperstein's devastating reviews target Dana Marschz (Steve Coogan), a hapless man-child and talentless actor spinning out the tail end of his high school drama fantasies into incipient middle age. (PK)

HANCOCK (PG-13, 82 minutes) Will Smith plays a superhero assisted in the miraculous by cutting-edge special effects and by the specialest effect of them all, Charlize Theron. So, what is a despised superhero to do? Hire a PR man (Jason Bateman). It's kind of amusing, but then the movie takes quite possibly the strangest turn in movie history. It changes course, tone, concern and story issue, and never recovers. (SH)

HOUSE BUNNY (PG-13, 98 minutes) Anna Faris plays Shelley, who has just aged out of her right to residency at the Playboy Mansion. She's 27 ("59 in Bunny years!"). And she will never realize her lifelong dream — to be a centerfold. So, poor Shelley is homeless, or she is until she recognizes her tribe, wandering into another mansion. But she can't become a shallow, dizzy sorority girl without enrolling. She can, however, become house mother to the Zekes, the lowliest sorority on campus, where misfits, social lepers, nerds and losers reside. This film from the Adam Sandler fun factory starts with a series of obnoxious, dated stereotypes and never quite flips them into something positive. (ORLANDO SENTINAL)

JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH (PG, 92 minutes) The latest iteration of the Jules Verne classic uses modern cinematic technology with verve and ingenuity. College geologist Trevor Anderson (Brendan Fraser) and his 13-year-old nephew, Sean (Josh Hutcherson), find themselves on a trip to Iceland, where a volcano is showing unusual activity. With

Continued on page 22

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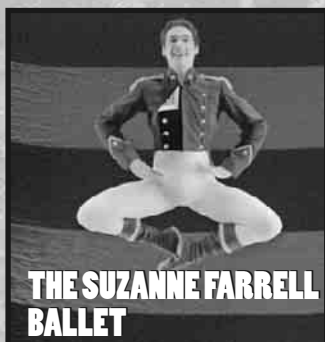
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Continued from page 21

the help of a gorgeous mountain climber named Hannah (Anita Briem), they get to their desired destination, only to be shunted into an abandoned mine during a thunderstorm. From there, they're hurled farther downward until they reach the titular center of the Earth. (AH)

MAMMA MIA! (PG-13, 103 minutes) The brassy, bawdy musical presents itself as a piece of clever counter-programming to this summer's surfeit of pounding, effects-driven comic-book movies. But

filmgoers are likely to feel just as bludgeoned, in this case, by an Abba-bomb wrapped in a huge turquoise-colored feather boa. That's not to say that fun isn't to be had; Streep is a wonderment, belting her way to another winning performance. (AH)

MAN ON WIRE (PG-13, 94 minutes) This documentary opens with a grainy black-and-white reenactment of the events of Aug. 7, 1974, when French high-wire artist Philippe Petit and a group of friends famously pulled off a coup at the newly built World Trade Center. The participants narrate what's happening on-screen, and the story takes on the taut urgency of a thriller. (AH)

THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR (PG-13, 113 minutes) Tiresome and messy, director Rob Cohen waters the film down to globs of plot, strung between shapeless action sequences and humorless repartee. Archaeologist/tomb-raider Rick O'Connell (Brendan Fraser) and his adventurer-writer wife, Evelyn (Maria Bello), live in bored retirement in 1946 England. They're thrilled when the government asks them to deliver a priceless gem to a Shanghai museum. Meanwhile, their son, Alex (Luke Ford), has gone on a dig in China, discovering the emperor's mummy encased in a huge terra-cotta sculpture. (JH)

PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R, 113 minutes)

Judd Apatow's latest production stars co-writer Seth Rogen as loser Dale Denton, a process-server with a girlfriend who's still in high school and a lifestyle that revolves around two things: getting wasted and staying wasted. When Dale witnesses a brutal crime, he runs straight to his dealer, Saul (James Franco), and soon the two are on the lam from corrupt police, a coldblooded drug kingpin and members of a ruthless Asian gang. (AH)

THE ROCKER (PG-13, 102 minutes) Rainn Wilson plays Robert "Fish" Fishman, a drummer fired by the group Vesuvius when a music exec decides his own wannabe son is a better skins-pounder.

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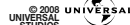


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SEX-RELATED HUMOR, PARTIAL NUDITY
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ACTION, LANGUAGE AND SOME SEXUALITY



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Weekend Entertainment

Now Playing

Continued from page 23

Huff (Will Ferrell) and Dale Doback (John C. Reilly) are capital-L losers who live with their single parents, who then meet, fall in love and a few weeks later get married. Thus Dale and Brennan meet and immediately hate each other. (SH)

TROPIC THUNDER (R, 111 minutes) In this rude, crude, over-the-top satire about rude, crude, over-the-top action movies, Ben Stiller makes an ambitious and surprisingly effective bid to skewer Hollywood's darker excesses. The movie-within-the-movie, the eponymous "Tropic Thunder" is an adaptation of a Vietnam War memoir by Four Leaf Tayback (Nick Nolte). He's played by Tugg Speedman (Stiller), whose most critically acclaimed performance so far has been as a developmentally challenged farm boy in "Simple Jack." Speedman's co-star is five-time Oscar



MELINDA SUE GORDON/COLUMBIA PICTURES

FRESH FROM THE CLUELESS FARM: Anna Faris plays a ditz who helps dorky girls become giant ditzes, too, in "House Bunny."

winner Kirk Lazarus (Robert Downey, Jr.) who has undergone a "pigmentation augmentation operation" to play

his black character. (AH)

VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA (PG-13, 96 minutes) Life is still meaningless, but

this time we get the message from the luscious lips and half-mast eyes of the stars of Spain's two best (and best-look-

ing) actors, Javier Bardem and Penélope Cruz, who play Juan Antonio and Maria Elena, two divorced painters who have driven each other to attempted homicide. Their explosive relationship is reignited by Scarlett Johansson, who enters their lives as Cristina, an American spending her summer in Barcelona. (DZ)

WALL-E (G, 97 minutes) Set in a future in which the only wildlife is the cockroach, "WALL-E" refers to our hero: a Waste Allocation Load Lifter, Earth class. He has been left behind to toil endlessly. Meanwhile, humankind has been traveling through space for 700 years waiting for Earth to regenerate. The human race has been reduced to morbid obesity, sloth and interactive video screens. This is not the Enchanted Forest. It's too plausible for that. (JA)



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TRAITOR (PG-13) (100 415) 700 945 1205
HAMLET 2 (R) - ID REQ'D (1215 245 515) 745 1015
HOUSE BUNNY (PG-13) (1115 145 430) 715 945
DEATH RACE (R) - ID REQ'D (1215) PM
OC & DA: DEATH RACE (R) - ID REQ'D (1215) PM
THE LONGSHOTS (PG) (130 400) 645 915
FLY ME TO THE MOON 3D (G) ★ (1145 200 415) 630 845
VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA (PG-13) (1100 130 400) 645 930
TROPIC THUNDER (R) - ID REQ'D (1130 230 515) 800 1045
THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) (1200 330 700) 1030
PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R) - ID REQ'D (745 1030)
STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS (PG) (1130 200 445)
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BABYLON AD (PG-13) (1110 130) 415 715 945 1210
DISASTER MOVIE (PG-13) (1210 230) 500 730 1000 1220
COLLEGE (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 300) 530 800 1020
OC & DA: DEATH RACE (R) - ID REQ'D (1115) AM
DEATH RACE (R) - ID REQ'D (145) 420 700 930 1040 1200
THE LONGSHOTS (PG) (1120 140) 430 655 915 1140
HOUSE BUNNY (PG-13) (1140 225) 450 720 1010 1230
THE ROCKER (PG-13) (1205) PM
MIRRORS (R) - ID REQ'D (1110 155) 440 725 1015
TROPIC THUNDER (R) - ID REQ'D (1105 1145 135 215) 410 515 700
PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R) - ID REQ'D (115) 425 735 1035
THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR (PG-13) (235) 510
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BABYLON AD (PG-13) (230 515) 800 1015
TRAITOR (PG-13) (145 430) 715 945
OC & DA: DEATH RACE (R) - ID REQ'D (200) PM
HAMLET 2 (R) - ID REQ'D (230 515) 745 1000
DEATH RACE (R) - ID REQ'D (445) 730 1005
THE LONGSHOTS (PG) (115 330) 630 900
HOUSE BUNNY (PG-13) (200 445) 715 945
THE ROCKER (PG-13) (930) PM
VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA (PG-13) (145 400) 645 915
STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS (PG) (100 330) 630 900
TROPIC THUNDER (R) - ID REQ'D (215 500) 745 1015
SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 2 (PG-13) (130 415)
PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R) - ID REQ'D (700 930)
THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR (PG-13) (115) PM
MAMMA MIA (PG-13) (345) 645 915
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WALL-E (G) (130 400) 700

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DISASTER MOVIE (PG-13) (Stadium) (1225 245 510) 740 1010
COLLEGE (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (1105 125 355) 620 845 1110
BABYLON AD (PG-13) (Stadium) (1115 130 400) 615 830 1100
TRAITOR (PG-13) (Stadium) (1100 135 430) 720 1025
I.O.U.S.A. (PG) (Stadium) (1135 210 440) 650 915
DEATH RACE (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (1110 1235 140 315) 420 805
THE LONGSHOTS (PG) (Stadium) (700 835 940) 1105
HOUSE BUNNY (PG-13) (Stadium) (1250 350) 715 945
THE ROCKER (PG-13) (Stadium) (1210 235 505) 735 1005
VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA (PG-13) (Stadium) (1015) PM
MIRRORS (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (1130 215 455) 745 1030
STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS (PG) (Stadium) (1125 150 425) 655
TROPIC THUNDER (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (100 230 330 500) 600
SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 2 (PG-13) (Stadium) (725 825 955) 1065
PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (1150) AM
THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR (PG-13) (1200 240 520) 810
MAMMA MIA - SING ALONG (PG-13) (Stadium) (120 155 435) 710 950
THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) (Stadium) (1255 345) 645 935
WALL-E (G) (Stadium) (1145 310) 705 1020
THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) (Stadium) (1220 250 525) 750

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DISASTER MOVIE (PG-13) (Stadium) (135 355) 730 1020
COLLEGE (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (120 345) 710 950
TRAITOR (PG-13) (Stadium) (115 410) 715 1000
DEATH RACE (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (205 440) 805 1035
RW & DA: DEATH RACE (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (100 325) 700 940
THE LONGSHOTS (PG) (Stadium) (140 405) 735 1005
HOUSE BUNNY (PG-13) (Stadium) (200 430) 750 1015
THE ROCKER (PG-13) (Stadium) (150) PM
MIRRORS (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (340) 945
STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS (PG) (Stadium) (105) 705
TROPIC THUNDER (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (130 350) 725 1010
PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (115 410) 715 1000
THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR (PG-13) (Stadium) (445) 745 1030
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COLLEGE (R) - ID REQ'D (115 330 545) 800 1015
DEATH RACE (R) - ID REQ'D (1245 310 530) 800 1030
HOUSE BUNNY (PG-13) (1200 215 445) 715 940
THE ROCKER (PG-13) (1215) PM
VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA (PG-13) (1245 300 515) 730 945
STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS (PG) (1205 220 440) 700
TROPIC THUNDER (R) - ID REQ'D (1245 315 545) 815 1040
PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R) - ID REQ'D (930) PM
MAMMA MIA (PG-13) (235 500) 730 1000
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DISASTER MOVIE (PG-13) (1215 215 430) 645 900 1115
COLLEGE (R) - ID REQ'D (1130 145 400) 615 830 1045
TRAITOR (PG-13) (1100 130 430) 745 1015
DEATH RACE (R) - ID REQ'D (1200 230 330 500) 600 730 830 1000
THE LONGSHOTS (PG) (1145 200 500) 715 930
HOUSE BUNNY (PG-13) (1115 215 445) 715 1000
FLY ME TO THE MOON 3D (G) ★ (1130 145 400) 645 845 1045
MIRRORS (R) - ID REQ'D (1215 245 515) 745 1015
TROPIC THUNDER (R) - ID REQ'D (1200 300 530) 800 1030
STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS (PG) (1100 115 345) 700
THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) (1100 230) 615 945
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DISASTER MOVIE (PG-13) (145 445) 745 1015
COLLEGE (R) - ID REQ'D (200 445) 715 945
TRAITOR (PG-13) (130 430) 730 1030
HAMLET 2 (R) - ID REQ'D (200 500) 745 1015
DEATH RACE (R) - ID REQ'D (500) 800 1045
OC & DA: DEATH RACE (R) - ID REQ'D (145) PM
HOUSE BUNNY (PG-13) (115 400) 715 1000
TROPIC THUNDER (R) - ID REQ'D (115 415) 700 930
THE LONGSHOTS (PG) (215) PM
THE ROCKER (PG-13) (515) 800 1045
MIRRORS (R) - ID REQ'D (100 400) 645 930
STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS (PG) (230 530) 815 1045
PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R) - ID REQ'D (345) 1030
THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR (PG-13) (345) 630
MAMMA MIA (PG-13) (100) 645
THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) (230) 630 845
WALL-E (G) (100) PM

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DISASTER MOVIE (PG-13) (1240 305 530) 800 1020
COLLEGE (R) - ID REQ'D (1220 245 515) 740 1005
BABYLON AD (PG-13) (1215 240 505) 730 955
I.O.U.S.A. (PG) (1230 255 520) 745 1000
VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA (PG-13) (105 345) 630 905
MIRRORS (R) - ID REQ'D (140 430) 720 1015
STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS (PG) (130 405) 640 915
PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R) - ID REQ'D (210 355 455) 650 750 835 1000
MAMMA MIA (PG-13) (155 445) 740 1030
THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) (130 415) 700 945
WALL-E (G) (1205 335) 710 1040

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DISASTER MOVIE (PG-13) (1230 300 530) 810 1045
COLLEGE (R) - ID REQ'D (1150 220 440) 700 920
FLY ME TO THE MOON 3D (G) ★ (205 430) 710 935 1200
DISASTER MOVIE (PG-13) (1210 235 500) 725 950 1150
BABYLON AD (PG-13) (200 450) 740 1030
COLLEGE (R) - ID REQ'D (1200 240 510) 750 1020
DEATH RACE (R) - ID REQ'D (320) 600 840 1120
OC & DA: DEATH RACE (R) - ID REQ'D (1240) PM
HOUSE BUNNY (PG-13) (140 410) 640 915
THE ROCKER (PG-13) (155 455) 730 1005
MIRRORS (R) - ID REQ'D (230 530) 820 1110
STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS (PG) (120 350) 625 855 1130
TROPIC THUNDER (R) - ID REQ'D (225 435 520) 720 800 1010 1050
PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R) - ID REQ'D (505) 755 1040
THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR (PG-13) (1235 325)
STEP BROTHERS (R) - ID REQ'D (905 1145)
THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) (310) 650 1020
WALL-E (G) (210) PM

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BABYLON AD (PG-13) (1130 210 450) 740 1020
DISASTER MOVIE (PG-13) (1200 230 500) 800 1025
COLLEGE (R) - ID REQ'D (1215 240 515) 750 1010
HAMLET 2 (R) - ID REQ'D (1150 220 440) 715 950
RW & DA: DEATH RACE (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (1135 215 445) 735
DEATH RACE (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (825) 915
THE LONGSHOTS (PG) (Stadium) (1130 150 415) 700 935
HOUSE BUNNY (PG-13) (Stadium) (1140 200 435) 720 945
THE ROCKER (PG-13) (Stadium) (1230) PM
MIRRORS (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (325) 930
STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS (PG) (Stadium) (1220 250) 635 925
TROPIC THUNDER (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (145 305 420) 620 705
PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (900 1000)
THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR (PG-13) (Stadium) (355) 930
MAMMA MIA - SING ALONG (PG-13) (Stadium) (1255 330) 655 935
THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) (Stadium) (1155 315) 650 1000
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DISASTER MOVIE (PG-13) (1200 220 440) 700 920
COLLEGE (R) - ID REQ'D (1240 300 520) 740 1000
TRAITOR (PG-13) (1140 440) 710 915
OC & DA: DEATH RACE (R) - ID REQ'D (1230) PM
HAMLET 2 (R) - ID REQ'D (1130 150 410) 640 900
HOUSE BUNNY (PG-13) (1140 210 330) 450 650 750 930 955
THE LONGSHOTS (PG) (1115 225 455) 725 950
HOUSE BUNNY (PG-13) (1210 250 510) 745 1015
THE ROCKER (PG-13) (1135) AM
VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA (PG-13) (1205 230 505) 730 910
MIRRORS (R) - ID REQ'D (105 345) 620 905
STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS (PG) (1250 205 340 445) 630 730 910
TROPIC THUNDER (R) - ID REQ'D (1225 310) 615
SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 2 (PG-13) (1225 310) 615
PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R) - ID REQ'D (1245 405) 715 1005
THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR (PG-13) (1225 350)
STEP BROTHERS (R) - ID REQ'D (1255 350) 645
MAMLET 2 (R) - ID REQ'D (PG-13) (1255 350) 645
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Adv. Tix on Sale TYLER PERRY'S: THE FAMILY THAT

PREYS (PG-13) ★
BABYLON AD (PG-13) (Stadium) (1200 1245 215 300 430 515) 645
DISASTER MOVIE (PG-13) (Stadium) (1215 230 445) 715 930
COLLEGE (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (1230 245 500) 745 1000
TRAITOR (PG-13) (Stadium) (1100 345) 700 940
HAMLET 2 (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (115 330 545) 800 1015
RW & DA: DEATH RACE (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (1235 320) 620 915
THE LONGSHOTS (PG) (Stadium) (1240 310 530) 750 1010
HOUSE BUNNY (PG-13) (Stadium) (1205 225 450) 710 910
THE ROCKER (PG-13) (Stadium) (910) PM
STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS (PG) (Stadium) (1220 240 510) 735
TROPIC THUNDER (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (110 350) 740 955
SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 2 (PG-13) (Stadium) (1230) 740
PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (1225 315) 630
THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR (PG-13) (Stadium) (205 430) 740 1000
MAMMA MIA (PG-13) (Stadium) (120 410) 720 1010
THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) (Stadium) (1250 340) 615 850
WALL-E (G) (Stadium) (1210 325) 650 1000
(130) PM

FAIRFAX TOWNE CENTER 10

4110 W OX Road 800-FANDANGO 670#

Adv. Tix on Sale TYLER PERRY'S: THE FAMILY THAT

PREYS (PG-13) ★
DISASTER MOVIE (PG-13) (1130 200 430) 730 950
COLLEGE (R) - ID REQ'D (1200 155 445) 740 1000
HAMLET 2 (R) - ID REQ'D (1150 215 435) 715 1005
I.O.U.S.A. (PG) (1145 205 450) 710 940
DEATH RACE (R) - ID REQ'D (1100 1200 135 235 415 510) 700 745
MIRRORS (R) - ID REQ'D (735 1015)
PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R) - ID REQ'D (1105 150 440) 725 1010
THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) (1110 140 410) 705 855
JOURNEY 3-D: \$2.50 ADDED FEE FOR 3-D (PG) ★ (1200 230 500)
WALL-E (G) (720 945)
(1115 145 425)

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AMC HOFFMAN CENTER 22

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THE IMAX EXPERIENCE

KUNG FU PANDA: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG) 1:00, 4:00
SPACE STATION 3D (NR-NOT RATED) 7:25, 9:50, 12:20

DIGITAL 3D

FLY ME TO THE MOON 3-D (G) 12:05, 2:15, 7:00
JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH (PG) 4:40, 9:20, 11:50

BABYLON A.D. (PG13) (10:25 @ \$6), 12:50, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:40
COLLEGE (R) (10:45 @ \$6), 1:10, 3:30, 5:55, 8:25, 10:55
DISASTER MOVIE (PG13) (10:20 @ \$6), 12:45, 3:10, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15, 12:30
TRAITOR (PG13) (10:35 @ \$6), 1:25, 4:05, 7:30, 10:05
DEATH RACE (R) (10:55, 11:40 @ \$6), 1:40, 2:25, 4:20, 5:05, 7:00, 7:55, 9:40, 10:30, 12:15
THE HOUSE BUNNY (PG13) (11:55 @ \$6), 2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:10
THE LONGSHOTS (PG) (11:25 @ \$6), 2:00, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20
THE ROCKER (PG13) 9:35 PM, 12:00 AM
MIRRORS (R) 12:00, 2:35, 5:20, 8:05, 10:45
STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS (PG) (11:35 @ \$6), 2:10, 4:45, 7:10
TROPIC THUNDER (R) (11:20 @ \$6), 12:10, 1:55, 2:40, 4:35, 5:10, 7:10, 7:50, 9:40, 10:25, 12:10
TROPIC THUNDER (R) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:25
PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R) 12:15, 2:50, 5:30, 8:10, 10:50
THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 2 (PG13) (10:30 @ \$6), 1:20, 4:10
THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR (PG13) 12:05, 2:55, 5:35, 8:25, 11:05
STEP BROTHERS (R) 7:20, 9:45, 12:05
THE DARK KNIGHT (PG13) (10:15 @ \$6), 1:35, 4:55, 7:15, 8:20, 10:35, 11:35
MAMMA MIA! (PG13) 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 9:55, 12:25
WALL-E (G) (11:30 @ \$6), 2:05, 4:30

AMC SELECT
VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA (PG13) 12:25, 2:45, 5:15, 7:40, 10:00
HAMLET 2 (R) (10:40 @ \$6), 1:05, 3:20, 5:50, 8:10, 10:35

AMC COLUMBIA MALL 14

10300 Patuxent Parkway
703-998-4AMC

THE IMAX EXPERIENCE

KUNG FU PANDA: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG) 2:30, 6:30, 9:00
SPACE STATION 3D (NR-NOT RATED) (10:15 @ \$9), 12:30, 5:00

DIGITAL PRESENTATION

BABYLON A.D. (PG13) (10:00 @ \$6), 12:20, 2:50, 5:25, 7:45, 10:30
COLLEGE (R) (10:10 @ \$6), 12:35, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:20
DISASTER MOVIE (PG13) (10:30 @ \$6), 1:15, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00
TRAITOR (PG13) (10:20 @ \$6), 1:20, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45
DEATH RACE (R) 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 8:10, 10:50
THE HOUSE BUNNY (PG13) (10:55 @ \$6), 1:30, 4:00, 7:10, 9:40
THE ROCKER (PG13) (11:00 @ \$6), 1:50, 7:20
MIRRORS (R) 4:30, 10:15
STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS (PG) 12:15, 5:15, 10:00
TROPIC THUNDER (R) (11:20 @ \$6), 2:00, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10
PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R) (11:30 @ \$6), 2:20, 5:10, 7:50, 10:40
THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 2 (PG13) (10:05 @ \$6), 3:45, 9:30
THE DARK KNIGHT (PG13) 1:00, 6:50
MAMMA MIA! (PG13) 1:00, 6:50
JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH (PG) 2:40, 7:40
AMC SELECT
HAMLET 2 (R) (11:45 @ \$6), 2:15, 4:50, 7:15, 9:35

LOEWS GEORGETOWN 14

3111 K Street, N.W.
202-342-6441

DIGITAL PRESENTATION

BABYLON A.D. (PG13) 12:10, 2:30, 4:55, 7:15, 9:35, 11:40
COLLEGE (R) 12:00, 2:20, 4:45, 7:05, 9:30, 11:40
DISASTER MOVIE (PG13) 12:05, 2:25, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20, 11:30
TRAITOR (PG13) 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40
DEATH RACE (R) 12:25, 2:55, 5:30, 8:05, 10:35
THE HOUSE BUNNY (PG13) 12:50, 3:20, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45
THE HOUSE BUNNY (PG13) 12:50, 3:20, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45
THE ROCKER (PG13) 10:15 PM
MIRRORS (R) 4:30, 7:20, 10:05
STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS (PG) 2:10
TROPIC THUNDER (R) 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:30
PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R) 12:05, 2:50, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35
THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 2 (PG13) 1:45, 4:35, 7:25
THE DARK KNIGHT (PG13) 12:20, 3:30, 6:50, 10:10
MAMMA MIA! SING A LONG (PG13) 12:00, 2:15, 5:00, 7:35, 10:20
AMC SELECT
VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA (PG13) 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 10:00
HAMLET 2 (R) 2:05, 4:25, 6:45, 9:05, 11:20

/-SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT No passes or discount coupons

CC - Closed Captioning DV - Descriptive Video Service

AMC POTOMAC MILLS 18

2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Ste 886
703-998-4262

THE IMAX EXPERIENCE

KUNG FU PANDA: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG) 1:00, 6:40, 9:05, 11:25
SPACE STATION 3D (NR-NOT RATED) (11:25 @ \$9), 3:20, 5:00

DIGITAL 3D

FLY ME TO THE MOON 3-D (G) 12:20, 2:30, 7:00
JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH (PG) (10:00 @ \$8), 4:40, 9:10, 11:30

BABYLON A.D. (PG13) (11:30 @ \$6), 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 11:45
COLLEGE (R) (11:15 @ \$6), 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:35, 11:55
DISASTER MOVIE (PG13) (11:50 @ \$6), 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45, 12:00
TRAITOR (PG13) (10:55 @ \$6), 1:35, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55, 12:10
DEATH RACE (R) 11:40 @ \$6, 2:20, 5:15, 7:50, 10:35
THE HOUSE BUNNY (PG13) (11:05 @ \$6), 1:30, 4:15, 6:55, 9:40, 12:05
THE LONGSHOTS (PG) (10:50 @ \$6), 1:25, 4:10, 6:45, 9:15
THE ROCKER (PG13) 10:20 PM
MIRRORS (R) 7:25, 10:05
STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS (PG) (10:00 @ \$6), 12:25, 5:55, 9:25, 7:55
TROPIC THUNDER (R) 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:30
PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R) (11:10 @ \$6), 1:55, 4:55, 7:35, 10:25
THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 2 (PG13) (11:35 @ \$6), 2:25, 5:20
THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR (PG13) (11:00 @ \$6), 1:40, 4:35, 7:30, 10:10
STEP BROTHERS (R) 8:05, 10:40
THE DARK KNIGHT (PG13) (10:30 @ \$6), 1:50, 5:05, 8:25, 11:40
MAMMA MIA! SING A LONG (PG13) (10:40 @ \$6), 1:15, 4:05, 6:50, 9:25, 12:00
WALL-E (G) (11:45 @ \$6), 2:10, 4:40

AMC SELECT
HAMLET 2 (R) 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50, 12:05

AMC COURTHOUSE PLAZA 8

Courthouse and Birch Rd.
703-998-4AMC

TRAITOR (PG13) 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 8:00, 10:30
DEATH RACE (R) 12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15
THE HOUSE BUNNY (PG13) 12:40, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
THE LONGSHOTS (PG) 12:00, 4:40, 9:30
THE ROCKER (PG13) 10:20 PM
THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 2 (PG13) 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:20
THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR (PG13) 4:10, 9:10
STEP BROTHERS (R) 1:30, 6:50
SEX AND THE CITY (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

AMC SELECT
HAMLET 2 (R) 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40

MAGIC JOHNSON CAPITAL CENTRE 12

800 Shopper's Way, Largo
301-324-4220

BABYLON A.D. (PG13) (10:30 @ \$6), 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
COLLEGE (R) (11:50 @ \$6), 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:35
DISASTER MOVIE (PG13) 12:35, 2:55, 5:25, 7:55, 10:25
TRAITOR (PG13) (11:30 @ \$6), 2:00, 4:35, 7:00, 9:30
DEATH RACE (R) (11:55 @ \$6), 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
THE LONGSHOTS (PG) (11:40 @ \$6), 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
THE ROCKER (PG13) 10:05 PM
MIRRORS (R) (10:45 @ \$6), 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:45
STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS (PG) 12:05, 2:35, 5:05
TROPIC THUNDER (R) 12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R) 10:20 PM
THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR (PG13) (11:00 @ \$6), 1:35, 4:30, 7:05
STEP BROTHERS (R) 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50
THE DARK KNIGHT (PG13) 12:10, 3:20, 6:35, 9:50
HANCOCK (PG13) 7:25, 9:55

LOEWS SHIRLINGTON 7

2772 South Randolph
703-671-0910 801

AMC SELECT
VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA (PG13) 1:50, 4:10, 7:00, 9:10

BOTTLE SHOCK (PG13) 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:20

BRIDESHEAD REVISITED (PG13) 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:05

ELEGY (R) 1:30, 4:10, 7:10, 9:30

TRANSIBERIAN (R) 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:00

FROZEN RIVER (R) 2:30, 4:40, 7:50, 9:50

TELL NO ONE (NR-NOT RATED) 2:00, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

LOEWS UPTOWN 1

3426 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
1-800-FANDANGO #713

THE DARK KNIGHT (PG13) 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15

AMC TYSONS CORNER 16

7850 Tysons Corner Center
703-998-4262

DIGITAL 3D

JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH (PG) (10:15 @ \$8), 12:30, 2:55, 5:15, 7:35

DIGITAL PRESENTATION

STEP BROTHERS (R) 10:00 PM, 12:20 AM

BABYLON A.D. (PG13) (10:20 @ \$6), 12:55, 3:20, 5:45, 8:15, 10:40, 12:55
COLLEGE (R) (10:35 @ \$6), 1:05, 3:35, 6:00, 8:30, 10:55, 12:55
DISASTER MOVIE (PG13) (9:45 @ \$6), 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50, 12:15
TRAITOR (PG13) (10:55 @ \$6), 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45, 12:30
DEATH RACE (R) 11:40 @ \$6, 2:20, 5:15, 7:50, 10:35
THE HOUSE BUNNY (PG13) (9:50 @ \$6), 12:20, 2:45, 5:20, 7:50, 10:25, 12:50
THE ROCKER (PG13) 10:05 PM, 12:35 AM
MIRRORS (R) 10:50 PM
STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS (PG) (10:05 @ \$6), 12:35, 3:25, 5:50, 8:20
TROPIC THUNDER (R) (11:20 @ \$6), 1:55, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10, 12:45
PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R) (11:05 @ \$6), 1:40, 4:20, 7:15, 10:15, 1:00
THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 2 (PG13) (10:30 @ \$6), 1:15, 4:10, 7:20
THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR (PG13) 4:25, 7:10, 9:55, 12:40
TROPIC THUNDER (PG13) 12:05, 3:30, 7:05, 10:30
MAMMA MIA! SING A LONG (PG13) (9:50 @ \$6), 12:25, 3:00, 5:35, 8:10, 10:45
WALL-E (G) (11:15 @ \$6), 1:45

AMC SELECT
VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA (PG13) (10:25 @ \$6), 12:45, 3:05, 5:30, 7:55, 10:20

HAMLET 2 (R) (10:00 @ \$6), 12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00, 12:25

AMC MAZZA GALLERY

Jenifer and Wisconsin
202-537-9553

BABYLON A.D. (PG13) 12:20, 2:50, 5:00, 7:20, 9:50
COLLEGE (R) 12:50, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:45
DISASTER MOVIE (PG13) 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 7:50, 10:10
DEATH RACE (R) 2:20, 5:10, 7:40, 10:15
THE ROCKER (PG13) 2:00, 4:50
TROPIC THUNDER (R) 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
THE DARK KNIGHT (PG13) 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:20
MAMMA MIA! (PG13) 7:10, 10:00

LOEWS RIO CINEMAS 18

9811 Washington Boulevard
301-948-0906

DIGITAL 3D

JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH (PG) (10:40 @ \$8), 2:05, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30, 11:50

BABYLON A.D. (PG13) (10:25 @ \$6), 12:40, 3:05, 5:25, 8:05, 10:25, 12:15
COLLEGE (R) (10:00 @ \$6), 12:25, 2:45, 5:15, 7:50, 10:15, 12:35
DISASTER MOVIE (PG13) (10:30 @ \$6), 12:45, 3:10, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10, 12:30
TRAITOR (PG13) (11:35 @ \$6), 2:30, 5:10, 8:00, 10:55
DEATH RACE (R) (9:50 @ \$6), 12:20, 2:50, 5:30, 8:10, 10:40
THE HOUSE BUNNY (PG13) (9:40 @ \$6), 12:00, 2:40, 4:55, 7:25, 10:00, 12:20
THE HOUSE BUNNY (PG13) 9:40 @ \$6, 12:00, 2:20, 4:55, 7:25, 10:00, 12:20
THE LONGSHOTS (PG) (9:55 @ \$6), 12:05, 2:35, 5:00, 7:15, 9:55
THE ROCKER (PG13) 10:20 PM
MIRRORS (R) 12:55, 5:55, 10:45
STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS (PG) (9:35 @ \$6), 12:05, 2:25, 4:50, 7:20, 9:35, 12:00
TROPIC THUNDER (R) (9:50 @ \$6), 12:30, 3:00, 5:40, 8:15, 10:50
PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R) (9:30 @ \$6), 12:10, 2:55, 5:35, 8:20, 11:05
THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 2 (PG13) (11:30 @ \$6), 2:00, 4:45, 7:35
THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR (PG13) 4:20, 7:05, 9:50
STEP BROTHERS (R) (10:20 @ \$6), 3:30, 8:25
THE DARK KNIGHT (PG13) (9:30 @ \$6), 12:50, 4:05, 7:40, 11:10
MAMMA MIA! SING A LONG (PG13) (11:15 @ \$6), 1:55, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40, 12:10
WALL-E (G) (11:10 @ \$6), 1:40

AMC SELECT
VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA (PG13) (9:45 @ \$6), 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 10:05, 12:25

HAMLET 2 (R) (10:45 @ \$6), 1:05, 3:25, 5:50, 7:55, 10:35

LOEWS WHITE FLINT 5

North Bethesda
1-800-FANDANGO #741

TRAITOR (PG13) (11:35 @ \$5), 2:15, 4:50, 7:35, 10:05

THE ROCKER (PG13) 7:20, 9:45

THE DARK KNIGHT (PG13) (11:10 @ \$5), 2:30, 6:40, 9:55

MAMMA MIA! (PG13) (11:20 @ \$5), 1:30, 4:40

AMC SELECT
VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA (PG13) (11:25 @ \$5), 1:45, 4:15, 7:25, 9:40

HAMLET 2 (R) (11:30 @ \$5), 1:40, 4:20, 7:15, 9:35

Times for Friday, August 29, 2008

express movie showtimes

MARYLAND

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NEW STADIUM SEATING/FREE PARKING**

BABYLON A.D. (PG-13)
(I) 11:45, 2:10, 4

Television



LIKE HORATIO SANZ IN THE POOL: Michael Phelps may have skills when it comes to swimming, but can he host "SNL"? Find out, when he attempts the feat on Sept. 13, along with musical guest Lil' Wayne, the man behind Phelps' favorite prerace pump-up jams.

ON TV THIS WEEKEND

WE'LL START WITH SPITZER

15 MOST SHOCKING POLITICAL SEX SCANDALS (8 p.m., E!, Fri.) takes an "undercover" tabloid glance at politics.

ONE FOR THE TWEENS

Josh Duhamel, Kate Bosworth and Topher Grace star in the 2004 comedy **WIN A DATE WITH TAD HAMILTON** (8 p.m., ABC, Fri.).

POPULAR, POSTHUMOUSLY

GRIZZLY MAN DIARIES (9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Animal Planet, Fri.) offers viewers bite-size snippets of video from the late eccentric naturalist Timothy Treadwell. He spent 13 years bonding with grizzly bears, and took thousands of hours of video and more than 10,000 still photographs.

FOREPLAY FOR ALL

Surprises abound while planning Janet's surprise party on **SWINGTOWN** (10 p.m., CBS, Fri.).

SEX TAPE CELEBRITY

Kim Kardashian, Amy Sedaris and Brian Regan appear on **LATE SHOW WITH DAVID**



CALL OF THE WILD: Timothy Treadwell's "Grizzly Man Diaries" are on Animal Planet.

LETTERMAN (11:35 p.m., CBS, Fri.). ABC recently announced that Kardashian will be on the new season of "Dancing With the Stars," beginning Sept. 23.

AMERICAN CLASSICS

Francis Ford Coppola sets Joseph Conrad's "Heart of Darkness" in the chaos of Vietnam in **APOCALYPSE NOW** (1:15a.m., TCM, Sat.), starring Martin Sheen,

Marlon Brando and Robert Duvall. It's part of a 24-hour salute to Brando's movies.

ROCK, AROUND THE CLOCK

The 2002 period piece **24-HOUR PARTY PEOPLE** (7 p.m., IFC, Sat.) recalls the influential music scene in Manchester, England, during the 1970s and 1980s.

THE HIIIIILLS ARE ALIVE!

Nothing says "holiday weekend" like **THE**

SOUND OF MUSIC (7 p.m., Family, Sat.). It airs on Sunday, too, at the same time.

SHOP TILL YOU'RE CROWNED

Mall shoppers participate in an **INSTANT BEAUTY PAGEANT** (9 p.m., Style, Sat.).

THE NOT-SO-GOOD LIFE

48 HOURS MYSTERY (10 p.m., CBS, Sat.) revisits a murder in an affluent suburb.

TIME TO GO HOME, HIPPIES

THE BURNING MAN FESTIVAL comes to an incendiary conclusion (12 a.m., Current TV, Sun.).

THE CHOSEN DEMS

Scheduled on **60 MINUTES** (7 p.m., CBS, Sun.): interviews with Democratic candidates Barack Obama and Joseph Biden; stories of patients awakening from minimally conscious states.

PREPOSTEROUSLY SWEET

Nicolas Cage stars in the loud and preposterous 2004 thriller **NATIONAL TREASURE** (8 p.m., NBC, Sun.).

BIG FOLKS

Catch two helpings of **WORLD'S HEAVIEST MAN** (8 p.m. and 9 p.m., TLC, Sun.), followed by **WORLD'S TALLEST PEOPLE** (10 p.m.).



FEISTY WOMAN: Peggy tries to hang with the boys on Sunday's "Mad Men."

ROOM FOR ONE MORE, FELLAS?

Peggy (Elisabeth Moss) makes an effort to invade the all-male bastion of after-hours bull sessions on **MAD MEN** (10 p.m., AMC, Sun.). The first five episodes of this season can be seen in marathon fashion beginning at 5 p.m. on AMC.

BENJAMINS GO MARCHING

A man named Noah dies in his ark under a pile of cash on **CSI: NY** (10 p.m., CBS, Sun.). KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

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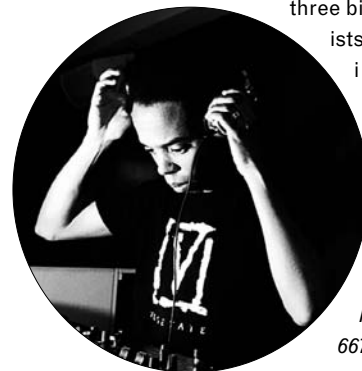
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Sunday Night Fever

OK, kids. The bitter end is here. Not, you know, of the world — just of the gorgeous season that was summer 2008. That's the bad news. The good news: You have Monday off. And the even better news is that I have something really, truly awesome for you to do on Sunday night. D.C.'s own DJ Dredd is known for his raucous dance parties and conceived the stellar "vs." structure, in which artists "battle," via his turntables, all night (I particularly enjoyed Duran Duran vs. New Order). On Sunday, he'll have the three biggest pop artists of all time fac-



ing off in his rotation. That's right: It's Prince vs. Michael Jackson vs. Madonna. That's "When Doves Cry" vs. "Bad" vs. "Like a Prayer." Need I say more? **K.E.**
→ *Black Cat, 1811 14th St. NW; Sun., 9 p.m., \$12; 202-667-4490. (U St.-Cardozo)*

Tomayto, Tamahto

Love tomatoes? You're not alone. Tomatoes are so in demand that trattoria Dino is holding what amounts to a tomato festival, a two-week bonanza in which tomato-filled dishes will be added to the menu and a five-course tomato-theme dinner will be available for \$49.

Just imagine "Iron Chef: Battle Tomato," but for two weeks. **F.Z.**
→ *Dino, 3435 Connecticut Ave. NW; Sept. 2-15, \$49; 202-686-2966. (Cleveland Park)*



'County' Wasn't Enough

It's getting colder, as I'm sure you've noticed. Yes, yes, hallelujah, we know. Summer in D.C. sucks. But this weekend is supposed to be gorgeous, so spend it outside listening to music at the Planet Arlington World Music Festival, where there are acts for every taste. **F.Z.**

→ *Netherlands Carillon, Arlington Boulevard and Meade Street, Arlington; Sat., 4 p.m., free; 703-228-1850. (Rosslyn)*



A Story of Redemption

Sometimes, a young man will realize that it maybe was not the best idea to be in a boy band called "Dream Street." Some of us had mullets in our youth, some of us dated men with mother issues, but most of us managed to avoid the particularly damaging "being-in-a-boy-band" pitfall. But not Jesse McCartney. He was sucked into the rough-and-tumble world of bland pop and highlighted hair, where he and his buddies sucked down Pixy Stix like there was no tomorrow. But there is always a tomorrow, and for McCartney it involves trying to make everyone forget he was once in a boy band called Dream Street. **F.Z.**
→ *Constitution Hall, 1776 D St. NW; Fri., 7:30 p.m., \$39.50-\$49.50; 202-397-7328. (Farragut West)*

top stops WEEKEND



Legs Up, Booties Down

If you're not a D.C. local, you might not be aware of our claim to musical fame: go-go. Go-go, which is known for its intense drumbeats, is the only genre of music guaranteed to make you "putcha one leg up and putcha booty on the floor." Also, it has a godfather, and his name is Chuck Brown — his signature tune is the one about "Bustin' Loose." Come help one of D.C.'s favorite artists celebrate his birthday at D.C.'s favorite venue, the 9:30 Club, on Saturday. **K.E.**
→ *9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; Sat., 8 p.m., \$25; 202-265-0930. (U St.-Cardozo)*

dine&dash



Quality Over ... Well, Anything Else

ANYONE WHO HAS visited Jettie's on Foxhall Road knows that the success of the sandwich shop, located a considerable trek from the beaten path, is all in the quality ingredients.

Owners Bo Blair, David Scribner and David Simone have used this same tactic in opening another casual eatery in now-booming Glover Park. Surfside on Wisconsin Avenue serves up explosive, California-style Mexican food using delectable meats, seafood and piles of fresh cilantro and avocado.

As with Jettie's, ordering at Surfside consists of circling an item on a slip of paper, handing it over and then waiting for your name to be called. Your choices include tacos, burritos, quesadillas, salads and large dinner plates all with flashy, tropical-theme names.

All of the tacos are flavorful — the Cabo San Lucas, or steak tacos, are delightfully spicy while pineapple salsa gives the Nevis, or shrimp tacos, a subtle sweetness. The Acapulco, or chicken quesadilla, is rich and cheesy, and served with a tangy lime sour cream. The dinner plates are hearty and the salads are fragrant — and the bar at the back serves up a cold, tart margarita to sip. Indoor seating, the roof deck and takeout are all options.

A warning: If it's the food you're interested in, go on the earlier side. The bar draws in a rowdy, thirsty crowd starting around 8:30 p.m.

KARMAH ELMUSA (EXPRESS)

→ *Surfside, 2444 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 6-10 p.m., 202-337-0004.*

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Trends

Realtors show homes by bike to lure buyers who want to cut costs

With gas prices high, bicycles flying out of stores and a buyers' market for houses, a handful of real estate agents across the country are touting the two-wheeled appeal of their listings.

Some even show houses exclusively by bike, wheeling through the neighborhood with potential buyers to show off bike lanes and bike-focused businesses and repair shops.

Clad in a purple helmet with plastic flowers dangling from her handlebars, Portland's Kirsten Kaufman is part of a new generation of agents eager to replace the stereotypes of hauling clients around in fancy sedans or SUVs.

“People want to live, work and go to school within a six-block radius.”

MATT KOLB, PEDAL TO PROPERTIES

The mother of three started hosting bike tours earlier this summer, doling out energy bars and apricots to a growing tail of clients whose passion for pedaling weighs heavily in their choice of homes. Some are hard-core cyclists. Others are moving into the city to avoid increasingly expensive and onerous commutes.

“It's becoming more common to see families committing to driving less,” said Kaufman. “I think it's a part of the market that will continue to grow as gas gets more expensive.”

Over the summer, sales of homes

dipped by more than 15 percent from last year, according to the National Association of Realtors, leaving Kaufman and other agents looking for new ways to spark business.

Bike agents say pedaling with clients is providing that boost. Behind a niche market that represents only a sliver of national sales is a bigger trend — a fundamental shift in the way people think about buying homes.

Real estate agents and industry surveys indicate that home buyers are placing more importance on cutting their gas bills and commute times and that homes near urban centers and subway, train and bus stops are selling faster than those

in the distant suburbs.

In June, a Coldwell Banker survey showed more than 95 percent of agents say rising gas prices are a concern to their clients. More than three quarters of clients say higher fuel costs are increasing their desire for city living.

“Living out in the suburbs just isn't a big deal anymore,” says Matt Kolb, a bike agent who owns Pedal to Properties, a Boulder, Colo., firm. “People want to live, work and go to school within a six-block radius — that's changing the way they look at property.”

Pedal to Properties has five agents, a fleet of 48 cruiser bikes and big plans for nationwide expansion. Next year, the company will stretch into Oregon and Texas.

“For people who want to drive less, it just makes sense that they'd be looking for different things in a neighborhood,” said 35-year-old Emily Gardener, a Portland woman who has been trolling for

INSIDE

Lindsay blasts dad on blog | 38



Blog Log: Bike-sharing isn't big in Mich. | 36

Discussions: Post's Alec MacGillis on politics | 36

PHOTOS BY JOHN KLICKER/AP



RIDE ON: Real estate agent Kirsten Kaufman gives a tour by bicycle to a potential home buyer in Portland, Ore., last week.

Wheel Deals

a new house with Kaufman on the same bike she uses to pedal to the office each day.

“Kirsten was able to see things about places we were looking at that I don't think a normal agent would have noticed,” she said.

Circling neighborhoods in northeast Portland, the duo passed on a number of homes. Some were just too far out to ride. Others had no handy place to store the bike or were cut off from easy biking by hostile traffic.

Portland State University urban planning professor Jennifer Dill has studied how neighborhood planning affects cycling habits, and advises home buyers to look for homes in areas with gridded street patterns and to avoid cul-de-sacs.

“On a bike, you want to minimize stopping,” she said. “You're going to want to look at streets with low traffic volume.”

Despite the promise of this new, more active method of home-buying, not all agents and clients are cut out for it, cautions Eric Rojas, a Chicago agent who pedals to showings.

“This is a hard job to do on a bike,” he said. “You have to get the right people, and the day has to be nice.” WHITNEY MALKIN



Showing bike-friendly properties makes sense as gas costs rise, Kaufman says.

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TELEVISION

Runway Jury

It's an ad, ad, ad, ad world on the latest product-placement-packed edition of 'Project Runway.' Meanwhile, from the very start, it obvious that the Soothsayer of Terrible Prophecies will proclaim Keith as "DOOOOOMED!" Arion Berger chops apart the show in her "Runway Jury" blog. | ONLINE NOW



BAGGAGE CHECK

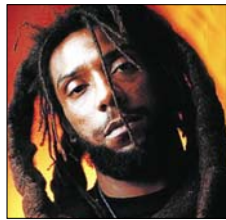
A Conniving Third Wheel

A reader tells Dr. Andrea that her live-in boyfriend of almost three years puts a married ex above her. He lies to spend time with the ex, and the woman meddles in the current relationship. They've tried couples counseling, but should the reader just give up or try to soldier on? | ONLINE NOW

SOUND BETS

D.C. Music News

Log on to find out the solo album from Bad Brains singer H.R., the resurgence of Fugazi's epic concert recordings project, and the latest news and MP3s from local reissue label Acute Records. Plus, check out a Rites of Spring performance from 1985 at the 9:30 Club. | ONLINE NOW



comment board

“Some businesses

offer Metro fare cards to their employees, so why not? Walking or riding a bike to work are much healthier alternatives than riding the Metro.”

COMMENTER NANCY, WHO ADDED, “THINK HOW THAT JUST MIGHT LOWER THEIR HEALTH INSURANCE RATES.”

“Walking to work or

taking Metro is great. I'm not sure about employers' needing to pay people to walk, though.”

COMMENTER ANOTHER PERSON, WHO ADDED, “AS A SOCIETY, WE SHOULD PROVIDE MORE WALKING/BIKING PATHS TO SAFELY SEPARATE PEDESTRIANS FROM MOTOR VEHICLES.”



“I'll say this for all the businesses to hear. I'm more likely to buy your product or use your service if your business is progressive in dealing with your employees, your community and our world.”

COMMENTER FILI-BIKE, RESPONDING TO THURSDAY'S POLL CENTER QUESTION, “SHOULD BUSINESSES OFFER STAFF A FINANCIAL INCENTIVE TO WALK OR BIKE TO WORK?”

poll center YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AS OF 5 P.M.

SHOULD BUSINESSES OFFER STAFF A FINANCIAL INCENTIVE TO WALK OR BIKE TO WORK?

YES 68%

NO 32%

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Blog LOG

“The flower guy at Dupont Circle has got to be the most gangsta flower guy in the history of flower guys. [His] flowers literally sell themselves.”

WTFMETRO.BLOGSPOT.COM ADMIRES THE SALESMAN'S EFFORTLESS METHOD OF SELLING FLOWERS, WHICH INVOLVES CUSTOMERS' APPROACHING HIM, DESPITE A SURLY ATTITUDE.



“Is this a new phenomenon, or am I just uninformed about the secret hipster going-ons in this city's unassuming places of worship?”

ELIZABETHNOLANBROWN.WORDPRESS.COM JUST FOUND OUT ABOUT THE SHOWS AT THE 6TH AND I STREET HISTORIC SYNAGOGUE, ADDING, “IS IT SUDDENLY THE HOT NEW CONCERT VENUE?”



“**WHILE IN D.C.** bikes are all the rage and bike-sharing is brilliant, apparently, in Michigan, biking is a 'transportation alternative' and bike-sharing qualifies as 'bizarre news.'”

THEINTERCULTURALISTS.BLOGSPOT.COM REFERS TO A MICHIGAN TV STATION THAT LISTED BIKE SHARING ALONG WITH OTHER ALLEGEDLY STRANGE HEADLINES SUCH AS “ONE-HORSE TOWN” AND “JOKER ARRESTED.”

“So, for the past three days/evenings, I've been cooped up in the newsroom for 12 hours a day. It's not too bad, but I haven't been eating the best foods I could eat. However, when I [last] weighed myself, [I] realized that I had lost 2 pounds.”

PRETTYASHLEY.COM CLAIMS, “APPARENTLY, THE MICHAEL PHELPS DIET ACTUALLY WORKS.”

Discussions

National Politics

Washington Post national political reporter **ALEC MACGILLIS** was online Thursday to discuss the latest buzz in Washington and The Post's coverage of political news.

Every time Obama makes a decision or statement, the media rush to the McCain campaign for a reaction. My question: Why? It's like the Redskins executing a pass play and the sportscasters going to the Cowboy's bench for their thoughts on the play.

Some smart media criticism here. The media is very concerned about seeming balanced, so there's always the call to get the reaction to the ping-pong hit. Back and forth, across the net. The problem, one

might argue, is when one side or the other clearly has a valid point, and instead of declaring it as such, the media offers the counter from the other side, which, in this case, may be less valid, and doesn't take it upon itself simply to tell the reader or viewer who is right in this case. Sometimes it becomes stenographer instead of referee.

I understand the Republican tactic of attacking Obama's strength — his charisma — by implying that he's a celebrity, an empty suit. That makes sense. However, the specifics of some of the attacks seem to rely on inertia and a lack of memory. Have you or anyone getting this spin asked how Obama's backdrop is qualitatively different from Bush's in 2004?

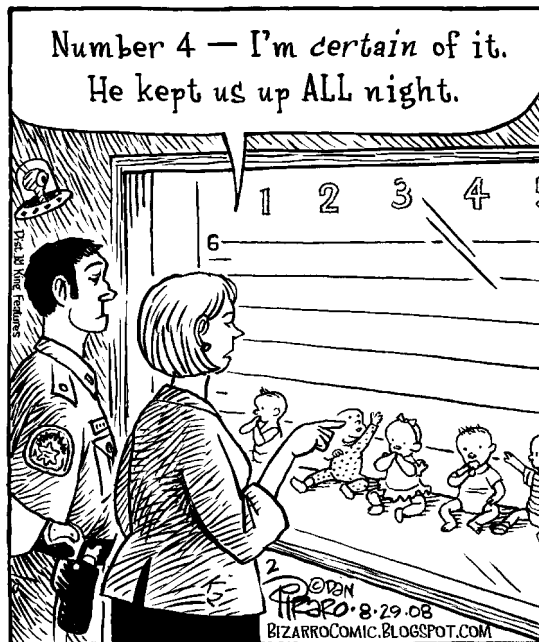
True, Bush had his own columns in 2004, which should undercut the Republican scorn somewhat. But

then one might ask: Since when is following Bush's example a positive for the Obama campaign to invoke?

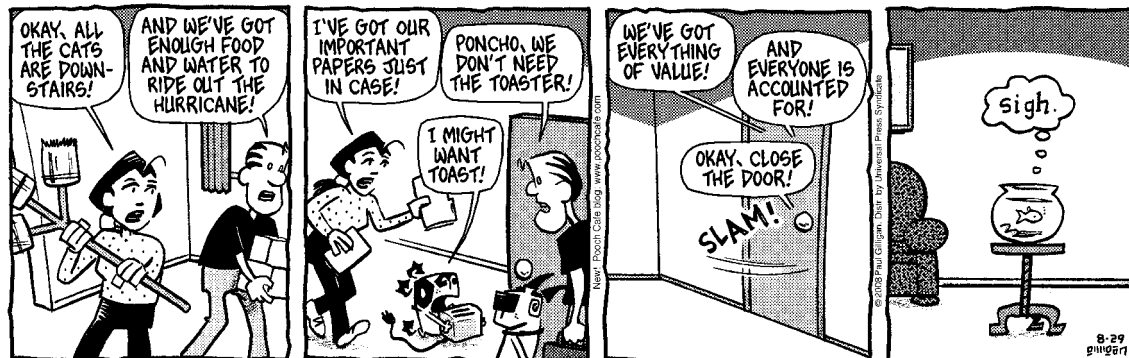
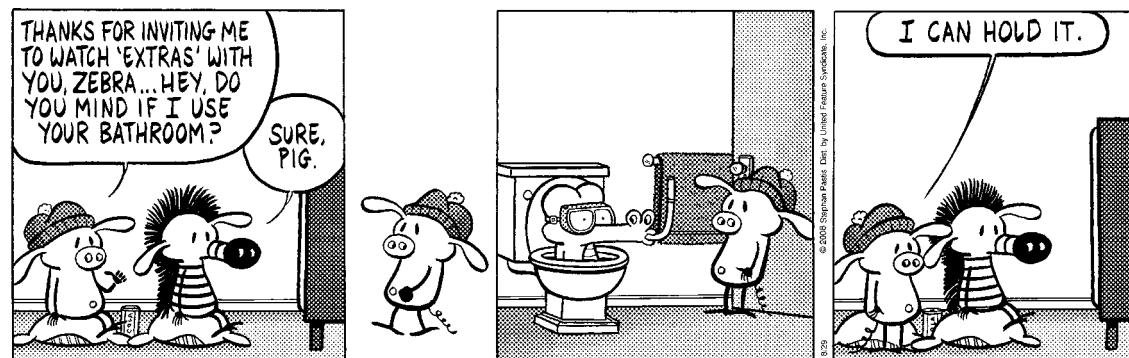
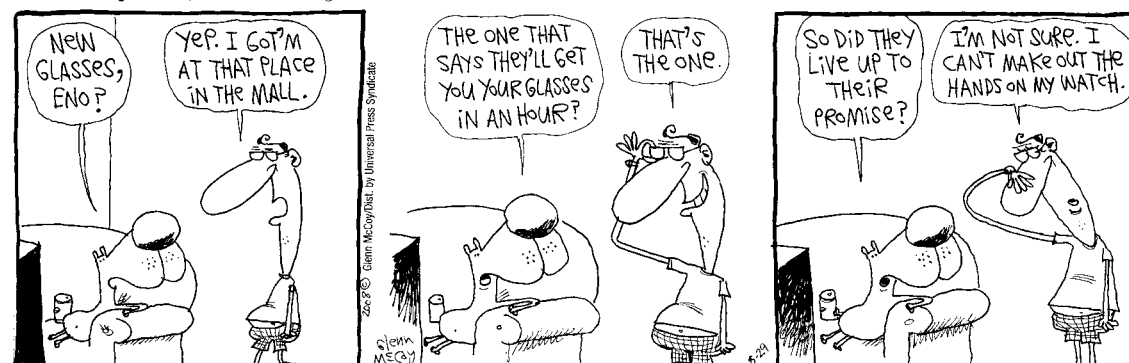
The media seems to repeat the Democrats economy-bashing without any critical thought or analysis. Is that because the newspaper industry in particular really is in a depression, and you're projecting your own pocketbook issues onto the rest of us?

You have a point — there's no doubt that our own doldrums in the newspaper business affect the way we view the broader economy. That said ... there seems to be plenty of evidence out there that things aren't going so hot.

TODAY ON DISCUSSIONS: The Post's Warren Brown answers your questions about every aspect of the automotive industry at 11 a.m. | washingtonpost.com/discussions.

Bizarro | Dan Piraro

Cornered | Mike Baldwin


"Isn't it true you were offered a special deal by the prosecutor, in exchange for your testimony?"

Pooch Cafe | Paul Gilligan

Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis

The Duplex | Glenn McCoy


Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You may be tempted to alter your routine ever so slightly — but don't do so while you are still winning results the old way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Don't wound someone else's pride. It may be up to you to see to it that no one else does, either.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Your organization may leave something to be desired, but you can trust a Virgo or Taurus native to set things straight for you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Added excitement is what you are looking for at this time, and someone from your past may simply pop in and provide it — much to your surprise.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) It won't take you long to reach your top speed, and once you do, you're likely to leave even your closest competitors in the dust.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Some fine-tuning is necessary before a project is ready to be unveiled before an eager audience of supporters and critics.

Don't be premature.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You may find yourself very much on your own as a result of a faulty decision made during the past few days. It's time to ask forgiveness.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You should be able to listen well to those who have a grievance of any kind, and in the end you're sure to be able to help out as well.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your confidence is on the rise once again after making amends with a central figure in your life. Get back to work as soon as you can.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Your passions lie quietly beneath the surface at this time, and with a little self-control you can keep yourself from going off prematurely.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Concentrate on hearth and home, and be willing to make changes in your environment or routine simply to please a family member or loved one.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You may be rather uptight as a result of recent criticism that you feel was unfair and uncalled-for. Confidence will return soon.

Letters

Rudeness Abounds on Metro

AS SUGGESTED IN Wednesday's letter ("Say Something About Music"), I kindly asked someone to please turn down his/her music. I almost got my you-know-what kicked all

over the train. I learned that even the Metro staff will not tell people they are doing something wrong. The ones I really feel sorry for are the elderly and disabled who cannot use the seats set aside for them because others are using them and refuse to give them up.

—ROSS KLINGER
Washington, D.C.

WRITE TO EXPRESS: Include name, hometown and telephone number. Submissions may be edited. E-mail to inbox@readexpress.com or mail to Express Letters, PO Box 17370, Arlington, VA 22216.

Today in History

1533 The last Incan king of Peru, Atahualpa, is executed on orders of Spanish conqueror Francisco Pizarro.

1877 The second president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Brigham Young, dies in Salt Lake City at age 76.

1944 Fifteen thousand American troops march down the Champs Elysees in Paris as the French capital continues to celebrate its liberation from the Nazis.

1966 The Beatles conclude their fourth American



Katrina slammed New Orleans in 2005.

tour with their last public concert, at Candlestick Park in San Francisco.

2005 Hurricane Katrina hits the Gulf Coast near Buras, La.; the resulting floods devastated the city of New Orleans. More than 1,800 people in the region died.

PostPoints DAILY CODE **KW**

LOOK

out

People



Dick indicates his amount of talent.

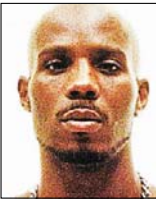
SERVICES

We Keep You Updated About Where Not to Be

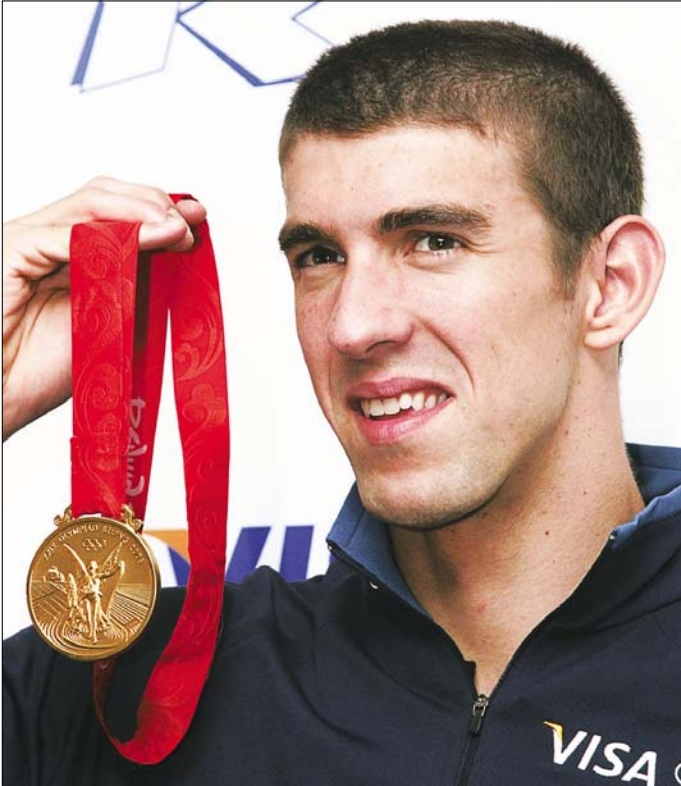
ANDY DICK will be spending lots of time in Lafayette, La. He'll be in the city for the filming of "Division III," a sports comedy. Dick said he may also become a resident. He said he finds Lafayette quieter and prettier than New Orleans. (AP)

KEY WORDS

Drugs, Lawyers, Celebrity, Rapper, Pot, Cocaine, Miami



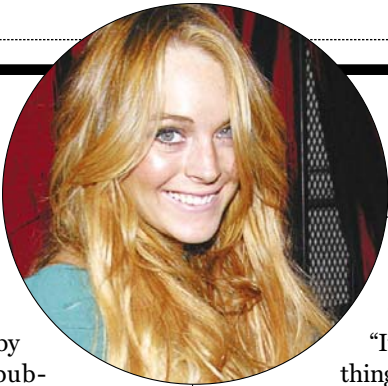
DMX has pleaded out a Miami drug case and now awaits extradition to face more charges in Arizona. He pleaded guilty to attempted marijuana and cocaine possession and was sentenced to time served. (AP)



OVEREXPOSURE

More Phelps Here

MICHAEL PHELPS joins Miley Cyrus, Scarlett Johansson, Lindsay Lohan and Ciara as presenters at the Sept. 7 Video Music Awards telecast. British comedian Russell Brand will host. Zac Efron, Vanessa Hudgens, Ashley Tisdale and Corbin Bleu of "High School Musical" will also present, as will "Twilight" actors Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner. (AP)



OBSOLETE
MySpace's Last User Posts Opinions
LINDSAY LOHAN lashed out at her father, Michael, by calling him a "public embarrassment" and a "bully" in a MySpace blog entry posted Thursday. Earlier in the week, Michael said that his daughter's pal Samantha Ronson was "using" her.

She's probably still using Friendster, too.

Lohan's publicist confirmed the post was legit. "If you have something to say to me, say it to my face — that's what I have believed my whole life — don't be a coward and say it to others first, let alone all the media in the world," Lohan wrote. (AP)

UNDERSTATEMENTS
Knight Lacks Chivalry
MARION "SUGE" KNIGHT has been released from a Las Vegas jail. The founder of bankrupt Death Row Records posted \$19,000 bail Wednesday and promised to appear in Las Vegas Justice Court on Sept. 26 on felony assault and drug charge.



es. Police arrested the hip-hop mogul on Wednesday morning after officers say they saw him beat his girlfriend while brandishing a knife in a parking lot near the Las Vegas Strip. (AP)

SEE ABOVE
Duff Considers Rival MySpace Posting
A judge in Texas has ordered the father of **HILARY DUFF** to spend 10 days in jail for contempt of court. Bob Duff was led away in handcuffs Wednesday during a court hearing after a judge determined he violated an injunction against selling assets without court approval. (AP)



Her daddy is an embarrassment, too.

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today

Partly sunny with a t-storm; warmer

78°

Tonight

Partly cloudy, a t-storm in spots

69°

Saturday

Partly sunny, a thunderstorm; humid

84° / 71°

Sunday

Sunny and less humid

89° / 67°

Monday

Sunny

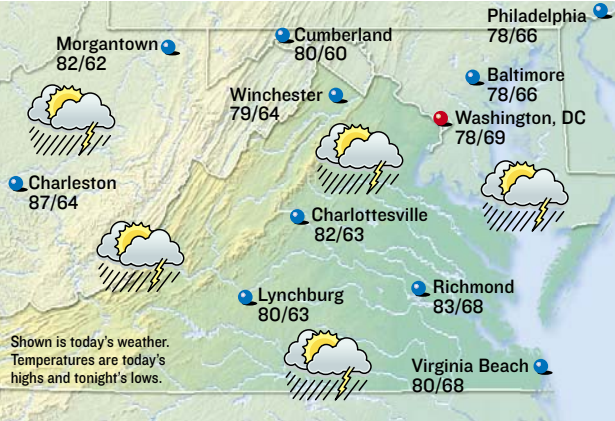
88° / 66°

Tuesday

Sunny

85° / 68°

Regional Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2008

Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Thur.

Temperature

High 74°

Low 69°

Normal high 84°

Normal low 67°

Average humidity 77%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m. 0.48"

Month to date 1.04"

Normal month to date 3.08"

Year to date 33.36"

Last year to date 21.04"

Normal year to date 26.01"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see: washingtontimes.com/weather

Regional Forecast

D.C. Metro: Today, partly sunny, a shower or thunderstorm. High 78. Wind east 5-10 mph. Tonight, partly cloudy, a shower or thunderstorm. Low 69.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today 6:35 a.m.

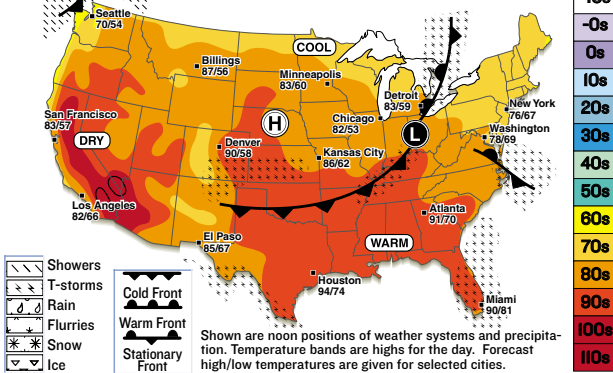
Sunset tonight 7:43 p.m.

Moonrise today 5:04 a.m.

Moonset today 7:05 p.m.



National Weather for Friday, August 29



National Cities

City	Today	Sat.
Atlanta	Hi/Low/W 91/70/pc	89/72/pc
Boston	71/62/s	79/64/pc
Chicago	82/53/s	87/57/s
Dallas	97/76/s	98/72/pc
Denver	90/58/s	92/58/s
Honolulu	89/75/s	88/75/s
Los Angeles	82/66/pc	82/66/pc
Miami	90/81/pc	89/79/t
New York City	76/67/pc	80/68/t
Orlando	92/75/pc	91/75/t
Seattle	70/54/pc	66/50/pc

World Cities

City	Today	Sat.
Amsterdam	Hi/Low/W 74/58/pc	76/59/pc
Athens	90/73/s	90/73/s
Berlin	70/54/c	75/58/s
Buenos Aires	63/48/s	66/54/pc
Calgary	70/47/s	64/38/pc
Dublin	70/55/pc	66/54/sh
Geneva	78/55/s	82/57/s
Moscow	63/52/r	57/45/sh
Rome	85/64/s	85/66/s
Sydney	63/51/pc	63/57/r
Tokyo	83/75/t	82/77/t

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

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8	2	4	3	1	7	9	5	6
6	3	1	9	5	2	8	7	4
2	9	5	7	6	1	4	8	3
1	4	8	5	9	3	2	6	7
3	6	7	4	2	8	1	9	5

Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

express

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Styles

AUG. 29-SEPT. 1, 2008



Oz Hotness:
Aussie Guy
Pearce talks
musicals and
movies | **E2**

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SANDWICH STACKS
UP WITH TIPS ON
GOOD BEEF, HOT
SAUCES AND THE
BEST TOPPINGS **E6**



face^{QA}time

■ **Guy Pearce** disappears into his many roles: a cheery drag queen in "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert," a tattooed amnesiac in "Memento." In the new film "Traitor," he plays a handsome FBI agent chasing suspected terrorist Samir (Don Cheadle) halfway across the world. We talked to him about his real life — which is also halfway around the world.

You live in Australia. Is it difficult to live so far from L.A. when you're in the movie business?

I don't feel the need, and I don't want to give up my family and friends at home. And I actually like going, "So, I've finished the job now; I can go home and actually forget about the industry and just get on with my everyday life."

I hear you write music?

I'm not particularly great at anything. I mean, I sing. I like to sing, and I sing with a friend's blues band at home. And I write a lot of music at home and record stuff with friends. But it's one of those things: I'm sure if I wasn't an actor I would have pursued a career in music somehow, and I fell into acting and it just sort of seemed to work.

One of your most famous roles, in "Memento," is a character covered in tattoos. Do you have any?

I don't. I'd really love to have a giant dragonfly on my back. I don't know why I don't do it. I wonder whether it'd just become a pest, you know, for work.

"Traitor" feels like an unusual mix of an action movie and a more thoughtful, political film.

It feels like a studio film, but it's an independent film. If it were a big studio film, they probably wouldn't have been able to be as provocative. I'm sure the edges would have been trimmed off a little bit. So, it's kind of nice, actually. It sort of feels like one of those films from the '70s that's entertaining but is actually really thought-provoking as well.



FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES

Guy Pearce

ACTOR, BLUES SINGER

It's very political. Did that have anything to do with your decision to do it?

I think ultimately I choose films because you get to sort of investigate the emotional heart of somebody, or a group of people or whatever.

Is there anything you haven't done that you'd like to do?

No. I mean, I'm just happy to wait

and see and just keep reading stuff. I really like the idea that I don't know what's out there and the next thing you read could be really amazing. I don't get offered a bunch of stuff, and most of the stuff I do is more independent things that don't have any money, they're desperately trying to pull the money together. So, fingers crossed.

"I'd really love to have a dragonfly [tattoo] on my back. I don't know why I don't do it."

Since you sing and act, would you ever want to do a movie musical?

I did a lot of musicals when I was a kid, like "The Wizard of Oz" and "Grease" and "Sinbad" and "Aladdin" and all sorts of stuff like that. So, on some level, I like the separation of those two things: I like straight acting and I like music for music's sake, but when it comes together, I just feel like I did it to death when I was a kid, so I don't feel a huge urge. I'm sure if someone came to me and said, "We're gonna do a remake of ..." — well, not even a remake, but if there was some original film that was a musical and I loved the songs, I'd do it. I'm sure if they hadn't made "Rocky Horror" or "Grease" or something and I had a chance, I'd do it.

FIONA ZUBLIN (EXPRESS)



WeekendPass makes the weekend perform.

Every Thursday in Express.



A publication of The Washington Post

It's NOT Shadow

YOU CAN'T JUST CALL something "shadow" anymore. Fleets of marketing employees must now toil in mazes of New York cubicles, coming up with new names and consistencies for stuff one rubs on one's eyes. The latest favorite of ours, Vincent Longo Eye Shimmer Souffle (in nine colors, \$24, Sephora.com), is more creamy than mousse-y; one pass with the forest green left a pleasant, subdued translucent haze over our lids; the second pass added drama, plus an alien-like appeal.



dear
manolo

ANSWERS FROM THE SHOEBLOGGER

Now that the summer is almost over, can you give us your opinion of wearing white shoes after Labor Day? — JULIA

■ Manolo says, every year at this time the Manolo feels like Punxsutawney Phil, the cute little Pennsylvania groundhog, who must each February emerge from his burrow and announce whether or not the winter will continue.

Likewise, at the end of each summer, the festive crowds gather on the boulevards in front of the Manolo's



pied-à-terre, waiting for the Manolo to emerge, boutonnière in place, walking stick in hand, to opine on the suitability of white footwear after the Day of Labor.

And, each year, the Manolo gives the same response to the gathered throngs, "Yes, the thousand times, yes! You may wear the white shoes even into the fall."

And, each year, the Manolo gives the same justification, that whether or not one wears white shoes is entirely about suitability. If the weather is still warm, and your outfit would benefit from beautiful white shoes, then you should wear them.

Look, here is the Zudora from the Donald J. Pliner (\$259, Zappos.com), the white and black peep-toe pump that could look smashing well into the autumn.



Ask the Manolo a question at manolo@shoeblogs.com. Visit the Manolo at shoeblogs.com.

ON THE COVER

Food styling by Pascale Lemaire, T.H.E. Artist Agency. Photo by Lawrence Luk.



Getting Letter All the Time

COMPUTERS PUT poor typesetters out of work years ago, meaning this newspaper you are holding is partially to blame. Such Luddite leftovers inspired Crate and Barrel's new Alpha coffee table (\$899, Crateandbarrel.com), which features wooden letters under glass and a steel base. It'd look equally stylish pulled up next to a posh velvet sofa or parked next to a pair of leather armchairs. And, no, it's not wrong to set your laptop on it.

4 It's a Grape Deal Easier

THE RABBIT, the Screwpull or even a samurai sword can open a bottle of wine. But Peugeot's new rechargeable electric corkscrew (\$120, Surlatable.com) takes the decanting process to a new level of speedy. The metal/plastic doohickie resembles one of those battery-run pepper grinders, and it works in a similar way: Position the contraption over a bottle, press a button, and a screw inserts itself first in and then out of the cork, extracting it. You'll get vino — and a techy buzz, too.



Punk Rock Tick Tocks

THAT "HILLARY'S Hellions" T-shirt no longer counts as au courant protest wear, dude. Instead, express disdain for the Electoral College, the man, the queen, the moral majority, whatever, with chunky, rock-and-rolly watches (\$28 each, Shoe-fly, 2618 Wilson Blvd.; 703-243-6490). Faces bearing the Union Jack, Che's grimacing face or creepy skulls help you tell the time without looking like some unhip, Timex-wearing sellout.



The Heels of Italy

FOOTWEAR FIENDS have long trekked to Carbon (2643 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-232-6645) for cute-yet-comfy shoes. Now the shop's owner, Kevin Powers, has launched his own Carbon line of women's kicks made in Morro Valle, Italy. Soft leathers and low-yet-funky heels make the wing tips (shown, \$249), X-strap pumps and granny-chic lace-up knee boots (\$439) ideal for cubicle or cocktail hours.

Styles | beauty

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1. Perfect Match

The worst part about cheap foundation is the inability to sample shades. We love the handy color selector attached to most L'Oréal True Match Super Blendable Makeup displays. (\$10.49)

2. Staying Power

Most powdery drugstore shadows make a mess and then disappear. But Revlon Color Stay 12 Hour Eye Shadow quads contain a range of shades that stay crease-free well into happy hour. (\$7)

3. Eye Equality

Rumors abound that Maybelline's Full 'N Soft mascara uses the exact same formula as pricier counterparts. Feel free to conduct your own Pepsi challenge at home, but we're true believers. (\$5)

4. Finer Liner

The Soft Kohl Kajal pencil from British brand Rimmel sharpens well for a fine and dainty line or can be applied with a heavier hand if you do get the urge to go totally Winehouse. (\$3.49)

5. Mouth Magic

Pricy glosses plump your pout, enrich it with vitamins or even change shade with your mood. But all we really need is pretty color and a little shine. e.l.f.'s Super Glossy Lip Shine gives you both. (\$1)

Looking for ways to cut spending in these recessionary times? If you've already made the switch from venti to tall and still need to save some coins, perhaps it's time to ditch the pricey powders and glosses. To help you avoid going bankrupt in the beauty aisle, we've collected some of our favorite drugstore cosmetics to keep you looking cute while conserving cash. ERIN CLEMENTS RUSHING

*Pretty Cheap





Jürgen Altziebler and Jesse Bechtel rush to serve guests chili pepper-themed dishes at the fourth Food Fight challenge.

‘Top Chef’ Spin-Off

D.C. friends stage their own elaborate food fights

Michelle Phillips opens the door to her visitors with a look of severe gravity. She clears her throat. “Thank you for coming tonight, but before entering this establishment, I must first warn you that you will pass through a “danger zone.”

Guests fret about their lack of bullet-proof clothing.

“In this zone, it is quite possible that you may look to the left and see the two chefs at work. I must ask that you not become tempted. Please focus your attention to the wall on the right until you reach the living room, at which point you may then enjoy the event.”

It’s clear this dinner party is no casual potluck. Phillips is hosting

Food Fight, one of a series of “Top Chef”-ish parties developed this past spring by a group of five food TV aficionados.

The specs: Two chefs are chosen out of a hat at the prior challenge. Two days before the party, they’re given a secret ingredient to incorporate into three courses. Confidentiality is treated with the utmost seriousness: “I wanted to call them using one of those voice disguisers,” says Ken Cornwell, a writer/producer. “I didn’t have

one, so I just talked in a low, creepy voice.”

Guests cannot know who cooked what as they sample and judge the dishes, using pre-printed ballots to grade each offering on taste, appearance and originality. The winner receives a trophy — a pair of rusty tongs — and is tasked with selecting the next secret ingredient.

Cornwell chose coffee for his event: “I wanted something versatile, so you could use it in a sauce, in a dessert.” The fourth party’s featured

foodstuff was chili peppers; oranges were another past choice.

To complicate matters, the recipes need to be at least semi-original. Competitor Genevieve Croteau, a director of television development, scoured Web sites such as Food.com and Epicurious.com to create her menu, a merging of recipes she found on both sites. “I started with the Internet to brainstorm ideas,” she says, “then put my own spin on things.”

Once the cooking commences, courses don’t necessarily arrive in a timely manner. “Make sure there’s plenty of wine for the wait,” says Phillips. If wine doesn’t quell impatience, try to distract them with an impeccably placed display: “A beautiful centerpiece incorporating the secret ingredient goes a long way.” She provided an arrangement of flowers, coffee beans and candles.

Disasters are inevitable — a smoke detector going off, unexpected ingredient crises. “I had to lose the sun-dried tomatoes,” admits contestant Katie Wilson, a project manager at WETA. “I pulled them out of the oven and they looked like bits of charcoal.”

While the votes are being tallied, guests chat about their favorite dishes. Popular courses have included pancakes with Asian dipping sauce and a coffee-Kahlua sur-

“A beautiful centerpiece incorporating the secret ingredient goes a long way.”

prise with a shot of mint ice cream. Food Fight cooks can get quite creative — one chef’s complex concoction was cayenne pepper chocolate mouse with a Rice Krispies Treat spoon covered with chili-pepper chocolate bark.

The final ceremony is a handoff of the Rusty Tongs, now on display in winner Wilson’s kitchen. She plans to give them the same artistic touch as she did her culinary creations: “I want to either bedazzle them or paint them in gold. I think they need a little bling.” ROBYN MINCHER

bash in a
flash



Slime Time!

■ Who doesn’t like a big bright helping of Jell-O? The kid-food staple never seems to lose its appeal. (Like peanut butter and fluff sandwiches. Anyone agree?) Jell-O makes adults feel like rambunctious kids again, a fact clearly demonstrated at TV editor/writer John Benedetto’s “26th of Jell-y” (aka July) bash.

It’s not that Benedetto loves Jell-O that much: “I’m a burger fan, but wrestling in burgers would be really weird.” He based his party off the now-defunct Jell-O wrestling nights at Adams Morgan bar Asylum and found that it’s easy to throw your own version. You don’t have to brew it yourself — Benedetto bought a non-toxic, non-edible Jell-O-like substance (\$49 for what becomes 25 gallons) via Jellowrestling.com. “It’s a snap to make,” he says. “I recommend the green, because it won’t look as bad on the grass the next day.” The ring? A blow-up pool atop a mattress.

After beers and Jell-O Punch — vodka, rum, lemonade and raspberry ginger ale — guests who originally had no intention of entering the ring start to reconsider. One man who swore on his no-wrestling policy ends up in his boxers doing a half nelson on a losing opponent. “Make sure to have extra clothes for those who show up thinking they won’t jump in,” Benedetto says. Accessories, such as inflatable boxing gloves, add a touch of TV realism to the sight of D.C. professionals fighting in a vat of pure slime.

Eventually, Jell-O’d-out guests move on to beer pong and fire up the grill. But back in the ring — unwilling to give up even though he’s starting to prune — Benedetto calls out, “Who’s next?!” After all, it’s his party. He can Jell-O wrestle if he wants to. R.M.

**Steal
My
Party**



A Food Fight winner: scallop-stuffed pepperoncini on a bed of purple cabbage.

This Bun for Hire

Beef up your burgers' appeal with more imaginative toppings

What's cooking for your Labor Day barbecue? Chances are, it's burgers. When throwing beef on the grill, more than half of U.S. consumers opt for hamburgers over steak, according to a 2008 survey funded by the Beef Checkoff, an industry market-research program. But merely slipping a patty between two slabs of bread doesn't make you a gourmet burger chef — that's why locals are flocking to the seemingly endless number of meat-and-buns joints opening in and around D.C. But if you ditch the Costco patties and stale buns and look to the experts for inspiration, you can re-create the craze on your grill.

That means homemade, hand-formed burgers that start with great meat. Nick Furlow, butcher at the Organic Butcher (6712 Old Dominion Drive, McLean; 703-790-8300), opts for ground chuck for beef burgers. "It's got a little more fat, which makes it juicier, more tender, more flavorful," he says. Though he prefers the lower-priced, high-in-fat chuck, his shop will grind all varieties of meat — including Waygu beef, lamb and even ostrich — provided you call ahead.

And of course, cow isn't the only thing that goes nicely on a bun. In their new cookbook, "Two Dudes, One Pan: Maximum Flavor From a Minimalist Kitchen" (\$25, Clarkson Potter), caterers/restaurateurs Jon Shook and Vinny Dotolo offer recipes for pork burgers with fennel-apple slaw and lamb burg-

ers with pickled red onions and an aioli made from harissa, a spicy North African pepper paste. To come up with your own signature sandwich, "Just think about things you like to eat and the ingredients that are on that dish," Shook says. Like sausage-and-pepper subs, turkey-and-gouda sandwiches or Reubens with extra sauerkraut? "Maybe you could take that and turn it into a burger."

What you put on that burger, matters, too — just look at the popularity of the topping selections at Big Buns Gourmet Grill

"If it's good meat, you shouldn't need to put anything in it."

(4401 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-276-3032). Co-owners Craig Carey and Tom Racosky recommend going beyond the lettuce-tomato-onion triumvirate. Think black-bean mango salsa, roasted corn salsa, avocado slices, bacon, fried onion straws and six varieties of cheese. Many of these can be easily re-created at home, but you can also hit Harris Teeter or Trader Joe's for accompaniments. Serve mini-burgers and guests will have the opportunity to try more



JUST THINK ABOUT THE THINGS YOU LIKE TO EAT. MAYBE YOU COULD TAKE THEM AND PUT THEM IN THAT DISH.



than one flavor combination.

Anything goes on a burger, really. Carey cites a fried egg as an out-there topping that adds a delicious sloppiness to the mix. Shook likes fries, slaw and other bar-food staples but draws the line at fine-dining favorites like foie gras and lobster that are popping up on menus across the country. "That's not even a burger to me anymore," he said.

The experts differ on where sauces should go, but Shook advocates strongly for sauce on top. He puts the burger directly atop the bottom bun — "because we like to let a little bit of juice settle into the bun" — and then piles the other toppings on top. "Usually, our sauce is a little like a dressing. It dresses all the other condiments."

If your designated griller accidentally overcooks the burgers, a good sauce can save you. Carey, a self-described "sauce fanatic," recommends tweaking traditional sauces, adding jalapeños or fresh tomatoes to Thousand Island dressing, for example. The shop's popular Chipotle Pesto Aioli is essentially mayonnaise zipped up with by pesto, chipotle peppers and a touch of cilantro. Carey suggests putting sauces in those plastic ketchup and mustard squeeze bottles and leaving them on the topping bar at a backyard party.

Feeling overwhelmed? The minimalist approach works, too. "If it's good meat, you shouldn't need to put anything in it," says Furlow. In fact, many burger experts apply this less-is-more philosophy to seasoning. Onion salt and garlic powder are common in patty recipes, but salt and perhaps a touch of pepper should be all you need.

Besides the bread, of course. For Shook, a good roll can make or break a burger. He likes his to be soft and buttery. Brioche is good, as are King's Hawaiian Sweet rolls or potato rolls. Ciabatta and other stiff breads won't do. When you bite into those, "the burger shoots out the back," he said.

Not liking meat, or even fish, is no obstacle at a burger bash these days, either. Oversize portobellos, slices of eggplant and even grilled cheeses topped with burger sauces and toppings often stand in for ground-beef patties. The veggie burger route is another option, but home cooks can go beyond the token box of Boca Burgers. Vegcooking.com

BURGER RECIPE

Lamb Burgers

MAKES 4 BURGERS

- Harissa aioli (recipe below)
- 1 3/4 pounds ground lamb
- 2 tsp. kosher salt
- 2 tbsp. canola oil
- 6 burger buns
- 2 tbsp. unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1/4 cup light or dark brown sugar
- 2 cups arugula
- picked red onions

STIR the aioli ingredients together in a small bowl and refrigerate until serving (or up to two days).

Place the meat in a large bowl and use your hands to work in the salt. Form the meat into four patties. Add the oil to a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat and cook the burgers, covered, until browned, three to four minutes. Flip the burgers and cook, covered, until your desired degree of doneness, another two to three minutes. Place the burgers on a platter and set aside. Wipe out your skillet with a paper towel. Spread the cut side of each bun with some softened butter, then place them cut-side down in the pan and cook until lightly toasted.

Harissa Aioli

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup prepared harissa
- 3 tbsp. ketchup


SPREAD some aioli on the top half of each bun and place a burger on the bottom half. Top the burger with some pickled onions, feta and arugula, add the top bun and serve.

FROM "TWO DUDES, ONE PAN"

offers a handful of mushroom and veggie burger recipes. In "The New Moosewood Cookbook," seminal vegetarian cookbook author Mollie Katzen offers a recipe for a lentil-walnut burger.

No matter how you plan to grill, proper preparation is key. In his book, Shook recommends making a mold — either using the lid of a plastic container like a peanut butter jar or cutting a circle out of a block of Styrofoam — to ensure all of your burger patties are the same thickness so that they cook at the same speed. Says Shook: "Don't be pattying burgers when your guests show up, because you're not going to have as much fun." JULIA BEIZER

COOK AND THE INGREDIENTS THAT ARE
AND TURN IT INTO A BURGER.



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Pick a Pickle Party

Don't limit the preservation technique to cucumbers

I can't find pickling cucumbers. Will my results be worse if I use "normal" cucumbers?

They won't be "worse," just different. I would recommend salting or brining regular cukes to draw out any bitterness and firm them up.

Do some of the autumn veggies pickle well, like squashes (particularly pumpkin), or am I really off-base?

I've seen a few recipes for pumpkin pickles. The issue with fall veggies is acid content; since some of them have less acid than summer vegetables such as tomatoes, you'd have to be sure to follow the recipe and boil them longer.

Can you explain to me the appeal of the pickled egg? I'm thinking of making some (inspired by some jewel-tinted beet juice I have left over). But other than the odd delight of eating something hot pink, I'm not convinced the flavor and texture are going to do it for me.

Sorry, I've never tried to make them, and don't really find the idea appealing. But, they do look pretty.

What I would love to try are some pickles that are used in other cuisines. What do you think is a good starting place for someone who has never pickled but wants to try a more exotic pickle?

I highly recommend "The Joy of Pickling" by Linda Ziedrich. It includes pickle recipes from all over the world. It's been an inspiration to me. One quick and easy (and different) recipe is Vietnamese pickled daikon and carrot.

My beef with things like pickled beans or specialty pickles like fiddlehead ferns is that they no longer taste like the original vegetable. All you taste is the pickling liquid. And



too often that is just boring.

That's not always true, especially if the vegetables are not overcooked before being added to the liquid. For instance, my pickled green beans are flavored but still taste like beans. Preserving techniques were developed long before refrigeration, in order to be able to eat something past the season for "fresh," and they almost always change the character of what is being preserved.

Do pickle jars have to be the traditional canning jars if I know they'll all get consumed in a month?
 If you're not processing them in a boiling water bath, or pressure canning, then they don't have to

be traditional jars. I reuse mayonnaise jars, for instance. Just run them through the dishwasher before cold-packing them.

I'm always looking for ways to preserve fine pork products. Is it possible to pickle bacon?

Bacon is already preserved (through the salting and the curing), so, why, oh, why? But anything's possible — and in these food-obsessive times, just about everything's been done.



The staff of the Washington Post Food section goes Free Range on Food every Wednesday at 1 p.m. at washingtonpost.com/liveonline. Catch up on recipes, cooking trends and more.



Pop Goes Dessert

RC Cola, root beer and other sodas add fizz to baked goods

Penny Karas tinkered for months before she deemed her root beer float cupcake delicious enough to make it into the rotation at her new Dupont Circle bakery, Hello Cupcake (1351 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-861-2253).

"I wanted to come up with a fun summertime assortment, so I worked on a bunch of soda-pop cupcakes," says Karas, who also poured countless liters of Coke, 7Up and Orange Crush in the course of her

kitchen experimentation.

The chewable float of sorts won out due to its sophisticated flavor, which relies on an artisanal root beer base — the syrupy stuff that is combined with carbonated water to make the beverage — for its cakey body, which then gets crowned with a foamy "head" of vanilla cream cheese frosting and a teeny-tiny chocolate straw. En garde, A&W!

Cooks and pro chefs have been baking with soft drinks for decades, especially down South, where a "Coke cake" — typically, a simple chocolate cake with the sweet soda mixed into the batter and/or the icing — shows up on many tables.

Highfalutin it's typically not. Chef Mark Ramsdell, director and head instructor of the pastry arts

program at L'Academie de Cuisine in Gaithersburg, chuckled kindly when we asked whether he had baked with RC Cola or Sprite. (He promised to inquire among his colleagues; nobody called back.)

And you probably won't find Dr Pepper cake on the menu at 1789 (1226 36th St. NW; 202-965-1789), either, though newly appointed pastry chef Travis Olson (a L'Academie de Cuisine grad, by the way) told us he whipped up a cake with Fanta orange soda once for a friend's birthday.

Still, David Guas, former executive pastry chef at Ceiba (701 14th St. NW; 202-393-3983) and now owner of the Damgoodsweet Consulting Group in McLean, which develops dessert menus for

RECIPE FILE

Root Beer Float Cupcakes

MAKES 28 CUPCAKES

- **Frosting** (recipe below)
- **8 oz. (2 cups) cake flour**
- **4 oz. (scant 1 cup) all-purpose flour, sifted after weighing**
- **1 1/2 tbsp. baking powder**
- **1/2 tsp. salt**
- **8 oz. (2 sticks) butter**
- **1 3/4 cups granulated sugar**
- **1/4 cup light or dark brown sugar**
- **1 tbsp. water**
- **4 eggs at room temperature**
- **1 tbsp. (or more) root beer base** (Buy at Northernbrewer.com)
- **1/2 tsp. vanilla extract**
- **1 cup milk**

PREHEAT oven to 350 degrees.

Line muffin tins with paper liners. Sift together flour, baking powder and salt; set aside. In a large bowl, cream butter for 30 seconds; then sprinkle in sugar and mix until light and fluffy, three to four minutes.

With the mixer on low, add eggs to the butter mixture one at a time. Add water and mix. Mix in the root beer base and vanilla. Alternately add the flour mixture and milk, beginning and ending with flour. Stop mixer and scrape down sides of bowl, then mix again just until well blended. Scoop batter into prepared tins, fill the cups between half-way and two-thirds. Bake until toothpick inserted into center of a cupcake comes out clean, 18 to 19 minutes. Let cool in pans for five minutes, then cool completely on racks.

Frosting

- **1 lb. cream cheese**
- **6 oz. (1 stick) unsalted butter**
- **8 cups confectioners' sugar, sifted**
- **1 tbsp. plus 1 tsp. vanilla**

BEAT CREAM cheese and butter until fluffy. With mixer on low, add half of the sugar and beat. Add vanilla, then rest of sugar and beat until incorporated. Switch mixer to medium, beat until fluffy. Frost cupcakes with a piping tip or spatula.

RECIPE BY PENNY KARAS, HELLO CUPCAKE

restaurants, likes how Barq's Root Beer enhances his sweet potato pie. "Growing up in New Orleans, Barq's was the root beer of choice," he says. "It has a little tang" that nicely offsets the smooth pie filling, which is sprinkled with a cinnamon-brown sugar-butter streusel.

Why did the practice of baking with soda — most often cola, it seems — become popular in the first place?

Chef Linton Hopkins — a native of Atlanta, Coke's hometown — thinks he knows. "Coke has the ability to sharpen flavors in baked goods," he says. Hopkins doesn't stop there: At Atlanta's Restaurant Eugene, which he and his wife, Gina, opened after working together at DC Coast (1401 K St. NW; 202-216-5988), Coke is used in all sorts of creative ways — in a glaze for pork bellies, in cake frosting, in an icy granita.

"Coke intensifies chocolate cake in the same way a bit of coffee does," says Karas. "It has this caramel-y flavor to it, so it adds earthiness."

Use soda to replace milk in a recipe — it'll produce a more tender cake.

Years ago, it might have been a less expensive way to add liquid to a cake, because every cake needs some liquid to give it tenderness and rise." She and others conjecture that soda replacing some of the milk or other liquid in a batter may contribute to a more tender crumb.

Besides improving the taste of a dessert, adding a little soda to sweets seems nostalgic and whimsical. Who wouldn't want to take a bite and be transported back to summer days when you could guzzle all the Coke you liked?

So, grab a cola-infused cupcake or concoct a Sprite sweet at home. Just don't forget the straw. AMY ROGERS NAZAROV

“COKE INTENSIFIES CHOCOLATE CAKE IN THE SAME WAY COFFEE DOES. IT HAS THIS CARAMEL-Y FLAVOR TO IT, SO IT ADDS EARTHINESS.”

out there

SEEKING ANSWERS ON THE TOWN

Q Who would you choose as your running mate?

RAVEN | MOUNT PLEASANT | AUG. 27

1. "Robin, from Batman and Robin," Carolyn Summer. "Martha Stewart," Kai Pilian, center. "The RZA from Wu-Tang Clan," Brian Bates. **2.** "Hugh Hefner," Dave Kelly. "My missing debit card," Meg Cantrell. **3.** "Bill Maher," John Tremblay, left. "Ghandi. He would refuse to use violence when violence was done unto him," Kashuo Bennet. **4.** "Amelia Bedelia. She gets [expletive] done in a really endearing way," Tara McCredie, left. "El Vez, the Mexican Elvis. He already did an El Vez for Prez tour," Lauren Wagner. **5.** "George Clooney," Amy Hardcastle. "Jesus. You can't say no to Jesus," Robert Kelly. **6.** "Tom Waits. I would get to hang out with him and call him Tom," Alfonso Bravo. "Omar from 'The Wire.' He's got my back," Jennifer Jeremias. **7.** "I've chosen my running mate," Lucas Ris, human. "I accept," Alistair the dog. **8.** "Hillary," Luis Castellanos. **9.** "I would be more concerned with my chief of staff and advisers. The VP doesn't really do anything," Antonio Rajakumaran. **10.** "I'm a big fan of Hillary," Christina Karmath. ROBYN MINCHER



↑ "The RZA from Wu-Tang Clan. He can do freestyles."



⤵ "Omar from 'The Wire.' He's got my back."



↑ "Hillary. What makes a great man is a great woman."



B.I.O.

* BY INVITATION ONLY: UPCOMING WEDDINGS & UNIONS



LaToya Daniels, Brandon Nichols

LaToya, 25, is a hotel supervisor. Brandon, 25, works for the Art Institute of Washington. They live in Arlington.

- **The Main Event:** A semiformal ceremony and reception in Alsip, Ill., on Aug. 31. LaToya will walk the aisle to Brian McKnight's "Love of My Life."
- **How They Met:** At the bus stop in front of their freshman dorms while students at the University of Illinois.
- **First Impressions:** "LaToya was loud, funny and talked too much." "He was a prep because he was matching,

literally, from head to toe. He was real sweet, but I thought he was too quiet."

- **First Date:** A trip to the movies.
- **How He Proposed:** "He tricked me by booking reservations on the Odyssey [dinner cruise] under the guise of getting something to eat. I was wary at first, but since I didn't see a ring box in his pants, I didn't think anything of it ... until dessert arrived with a ring smack in the center of the platter."

- **Stupidest Fight:** "We now affectionately call it 'Taco Gate,'" says LaToya. "It was essentially a fight over who was going to make the second helping of tacos."

- **Pet Names:** Brandon is "Pumpkin" and "the Husband," while LaToya is "Toy" and "the Wife."

- **When She Knew:** "After I got in a car accident and he made the 90-mile trip to see me. I knew that was love."

"All she could do was laugh when I presented the ring to her."



Call God a Matchmaker

When **TRACEY BOGANS** first spotted **MARVIS STEWARD** at their church, she couldn't help reflecting on "how handsome he was." Little did she know the feeling was mutual, but, Marvis admits, "I watched her for two years before I said a word to her. The moment had to be right!" So, when did the opportune time arrive? While both volunteered at a nursing home. Yet just when he worked up the nerve to speak to Tracey, she left for the day. Undeterred, he asked a mutual pal for her number. He called her but didn't leave a message. Tracey had only the phone number on her caller ID to go by, and since she didn't know it was him, it was a week before she returned Marvis' call. "To be honest," she confesses, "I haven't stopped smiling." So, when Marvis spontaneously met her for lunch in July 2007, dropped to one knee and recited an eloquent proposal speech, she didn't hesitate before saying yes. "I will never look at T.G.I. Friday's the same again!" They will wed Aug. 30 in Hanover.

Tracey, 39, is a paralegal. Marvis, 48, is a U.S. Postal Service worker. They live in Upper Marlboro, Md.



Lerone Faison, Shaquana Winkey

Lerone, 30, is an IT professional. Shaquana, 27, is an analyst. They live in Forestville, Md.

- **The Main Event:** A ceremony followed by a reception in a historic mansion in Mitchellville, Md., on Aug. 30.
- **How They Met:** "At work," says Lerone. "I did some work on her PC."
- **First Impressions:** "He is cute!" "I thought she was attractive. Of course she thought I was hot! Sizzling!"
- **First Date:** Dinner at Red Lobster in August 2003.
- **How He Proposed:** While Shaquana washed dishes in the kitchen, Lerone shocked her by popping the question. "I was happy," she says. "It was a nice-size diamond!" It didn't even matter that he put it on the wrong hand.

"I thought she was attractive," says Lerone. "Of course she thought I was hot! Sizzling!"

Meredyth Cohen, Charles Havasy

Meredyth, 28, is an attorney. Charles, 38, is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force. They live in Ballston.

- **The Main Event:** A traditional Catholic ceremony followed by a semiformal reception in Charles' hometown of Scotia, N.Y., on Aug. 30.
- **How They Met:** Through a mutual pal at a party.
- **First Impressions:** "He was smart, fun to talk to, and I was impressed with

his dancing skills." "She was small of stature, cute, had a pretty smile and was a good listener."

- **First Date:** On a Wednesday evening, they had dinner at a Mexican restaurant followed by a long walk. "We had such a good time," says Meredyth, "that we decided to go out again on Thursday."

- **How He Proposed:** After spending the day showing buddies from New York



the D.C. sites, Charles waited anxiously to carry out some plans of his own. When their friends left, he says, "I couldn't wait any longer. With a two-minute speech

and a few tears from us both, we were engaged." The ring is Meredyth's grandmother's engagement diamond placed in a new setting.

- **Most Hated Clothing Item:** "All of his horrible Hawaiian shirts."
- **Celebrating Heritage:** "We will be cutting the cake with his father's Navy sword."
- **When He Knew:** "When I was with her before they whisked her into the operating room for her gallbladder surgery last summer. I was all cool and joking with her—but when she was gone, I stepped around the corner and started crying. I knew I'd have to marry her."

- **Most Hated Clothing Item:** "His black-and-white sneakers that look like there is a spring in the back of them. They look like Tigger shoes!" "Most definitely the head scarf she wears to bed."

- **Stupidest Fight:** "He ate the last of the cereal and I had my mouth set on eating it."

- **Celebrating Heritage:** Shaquana's mother will give her away.

- **Wedding Jitters:** Shaquana fears something noticeable will happen: "I will fall!" Lerone's biggest concern is finger-focused: "That I'll forget the ring."

Getting Married? If you'd like to see your wedding or commitment ceremony in B.I.O., send your favorite informal photograph (wacky is fine, but please don't send a formal engagement shot), plus your names and ceremony date to weddings@readexpress.com. Please contact us at least one month before your wedding. We'll get back to you with some questions as your big day approaches.





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In Pursuit Of Peace

Noisy neighbors? It's still possible to turn your home into a quiet refuge

It's 2 a.m. and you're sound asleep when your alarm clock starts buzzing. The problem is, you set the alarm for 6 a.m. Old Faithful isn't going off early. It's merely buzzing as it vibrates to the beat of your neighbor's house music. Sound familiar? It does to Rob Pongsajapan.

"It's great if you're at a club, but not if you're trying to sleep

and work," says the 28-year-old Ballston resident who is a Web developer at Georgetown University. He and his wife, Alyson Hurt, also 28, have owned their condo in Arlington's Summerwalk complex for two years. The noise began when new neighbors moved in a couple months ago. Pongsajapan says it's the worst in the bathroom and the bedroom, where the two units share walls.

"The walls are so thin, we can hear their phone conversations and when they're talking loudly," he says. "Sometimes there's yelling."



SOUNDPROOFING PRO: Interior designer Tracy Morris helps clients deaden noise.

The same residents play bass-heavy music, typically starting around 9 or 10 a.m. and continuing sometimes until 1 a.m., he says. "They're remarkably consistent," Pongsajapan says wryly.

“The walls are so thin, we can hear their phone conversations and when they're talking loudly.”

ROB PONGSAJAPAN, CONDO OWNER WHO HAS NOISY NEIGHBORS

Fortunately, Pongsajapan and his wife are pretty laid-back about their noisy neighbors. Pongsajapan admits that he and his wife are also guilty of a causing a little extra din (sometimes running their washing machine late at night), so they don't want to confront the noisemakers and start a "chain reaction."

But Pongsajapan and his wife

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QUEST FOR QUIET

If you're in the market for a new condo or townhouse, obtaining peace and quiet may be every bit as important to you as snagging a spot within walking distance of a Metro station. Before signing on the dotted line, though, do a little extra on-site research.

→ MAKE A RACKET

First, check for noise by creating some. If possible, flush toilets, turn on a radio, or stomp around and listen to learn whether the sound travels. If an adjacent unit is vacant, ask to run the same drill in there to get a sense of what you'll hear from neighbors.

→ LOOK DOWN

Ask about the floor beneath your feet. "Cork underlay helps a lot," says John Nammack of Shalom Baranes Associates, an architectural firm in Northwest Washington. Plenty of newer buildings are designed using hardwood and tile, so find out whether all of the units are carpeted. "Even carpet in the corridors can help muffle sound," Nammack says.

→ BE MATERIALS-MINDED

"Find out what type of insulation was used between the units," advises Tracy Morris of Tracy Morris Design. Is it concrete, spray-in foam or the pink, cotton-candy-like stuff? Don't forget to ask whether there are concrete firewalls between units, which help to decrease sound and boost fire protection.

→ THE BOTTOM LINE?

"Your atmosphere is so important that to have a lot of noise can make it really unpleasant," Morris says. "Buy a place that's very well-built, or just don't buy it." LYNN THORNE



SILENT SHOWROOM: Interior designer Tracy Morris keeps her living room quiet with a few key items that also add visual interest: **1. PILLOWS:** Decorative and functional accents double as racket reducers. **2. DRAPES:** Choose window treatments with a heavy lining to muffle noise from the neighborhood. **3. BLANKETS:** Thick, textured throws (and non-leather furniture) help absorb extra sounds. **4. RUG:** Floor coverings in unexpected places decrease audio pollution from the ground up.

are far from the only condo-dwellers with noisy neighbors. Noise issues between neighbors — in any type of home — is relatively common, according to a 2007 survey sponsored by the Alexandria, Va.-based Community Associations Institute. Numbers show that about 10 percent of homeowner association residents don't get along with each other, and noise is often to blame.

Of course, the cacophony is not always coming from the owners down the hall. Sometimes, sounds invade from outside. The 22 West

condos at New Hampshire Avenue and 22nd Street NW, for instance, are next to a busy gas station and just down the street from both a firehouse and a police station. That location seems like an invitation for sleepless nights (and days, for that matter).

But architects Shalom Baranes Associates paid close attention to the design of 22 West to prevent neighborhood sounds from leaking in. Commercial-grade windows in each unit help quell sirens and bells from outdoors; acoustics with sound bats (a type of fiberglass

Smart interior design can help deaden sound. The key? Texture, texture, texture.

insulation) deaden din through the floors; and partitions between the units are staggered, so sounds and vibrations through the walls are minimized.

"We avoided adjacencies," Shalom Baranes Associates architect John Nammack says. "The trash chutes aren't next to the units. And when we did have to place things next to each other, like an elevator right next to a unit, we chose the quietest elevator we could and built an extra wall with sound bats between the two to dampen the noise."

Air ducts in 22 West supply fresh air for the units, so the doors don't have to be undercut for airflow, nor do the windows need to be opened. And the building's spe-

cialized floor assemblies include two slabs of concrete with foam insulation between them — meaning that owners don't have to endure the click-clacks of their upstairs neighbors' Prada heels.

Interior designer Tracy Morris says few new buildings are as well sound-proofed as 22 West. In fact, she says one of the biggest contributors to a noisy nest is the current trend of high-rises' featuring walls of glass.

"Architects are doing floor-to-ceiling windows," says Morris,

CONTINUED ON E4

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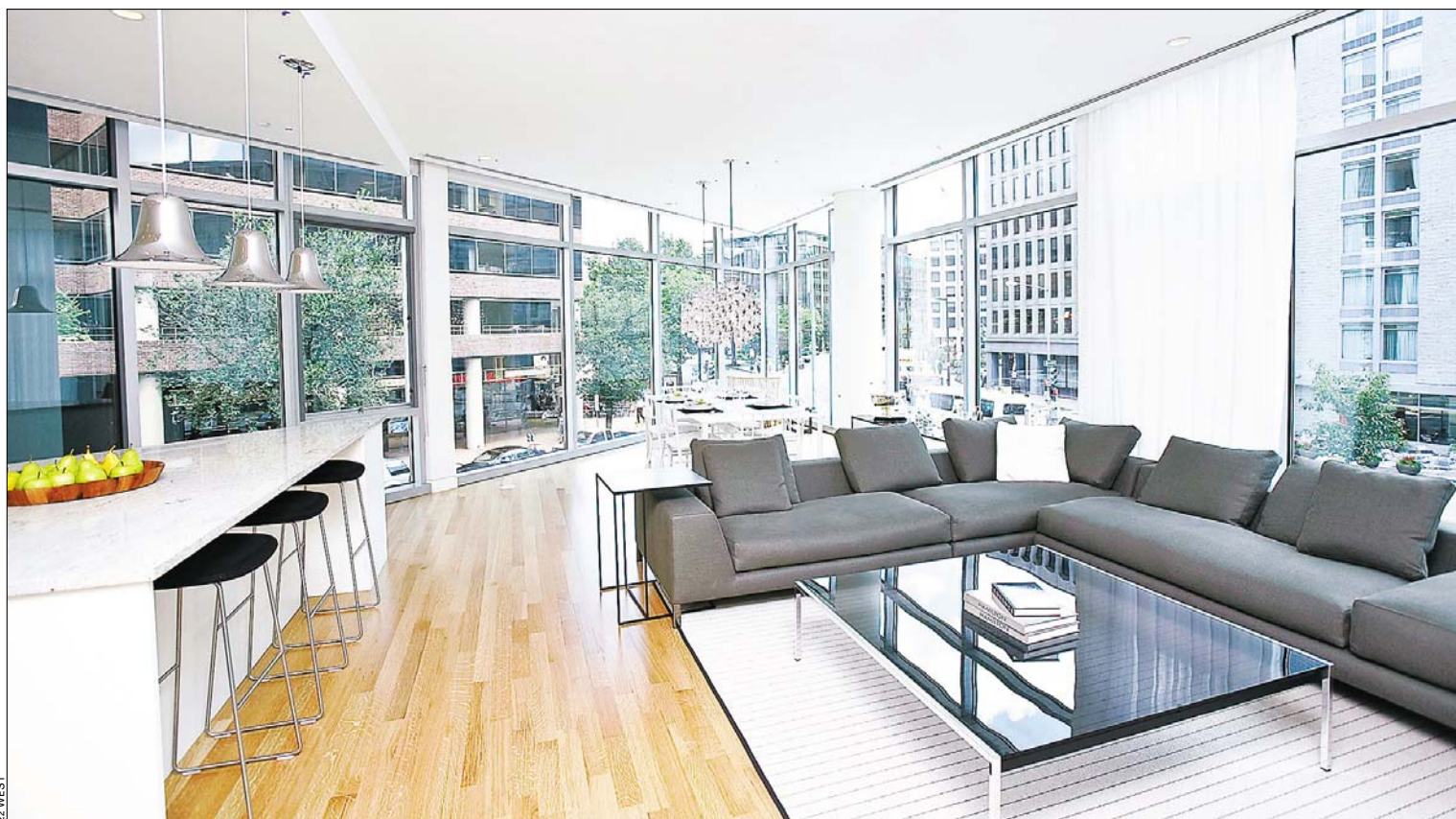
Volume Control

CONTINUED FROM E3

who owns Tracy Morris Design in Georgetown (202-486-6209). "So, you've got plenty of area that's not well sound-proofed, and then the windows most of the builders are using are not great quality. They're just so loud!"

Thick window panes serve as insulators for both sound and energy purposes.

Most owners can turn down the volume on outside sounds by installing new windows in their condos. Interior storm windows can help by adding another layer of glass that acts as sound insulation, or owners can install energy-efficient panes with tempered



NOISE-FREE NEST: Commercial-grade windows and well-placed partitions help keep the sounds of downtown Washington from leaking into the condo units at 22 West.

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glass. “They’re more high-end, but if you’re dealing with noise issues, they’re worth it,” Morris says. Thick panes are better insulators for both sound and energy purposes, and larger air cavities between panes equal greater noise reduction.

If new panes are a pain in the pocketbook, smart interior design can also help deaden sound. The key? “Texture, texture, texture,” Morris says. When she’s dealing with a client who’s suffering from noise issues, she designs with lots of area rugs, “even in places you don’t necessarily think of using them, like a kitchen,” she says.

Morris also doubles up on drapes or makes sure they’re lined with flannel or a blackout material to absorb noise. Throws and pillows also decrease audio pollution while adding personality to living spaces.

As for furniture, “choose a sofa that isn’t leather, that’s got some density to it,” to help act as a sound barrier, Morris recommends.

Noise issues between neighbors — in any type of home — is fairly common.

For their part, Pongsajapan and his wife aren’t redecorating. In fact, their noisy neighbors have simply become part of their routine. “It’s almost gotten to the point where it’s funny,” Pongsajapan says. “We’ve sort of adjusted our lifestyle to deal with it. We wear headphones or we go out. Of course, we do keep hoping they’ll move.”

But when they do, he says, part of him might actually be a little sad. “It’s a weird source of comfort at this point. There will be a temporary void when they finally move out, like an adjustment period,” he jokes. LYNN THORNE

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TOP DOG: Emily Knaus and Giovanni Pindilli greet their border collie-golden retriever mix, Dakota, as she walks out of her "doghouse" in their Arlington condo.

Happy Tails at Home

Pet owners make special efforts to keep furry friends content in condos

In a condo with an area of about 650 square feet, space could be a little tight for two people. Add a 60-pound mutt to your life, and you're looking at potentially even less comfy quarters — not to mention a lot of hair on the sofa.

But Emily Knaus and Giovanni Pindilli, who live in the aforementioned home in Arlington's Hartford condo complex, don't seem to mind. And judging from the constantly wagging tail of their 8-year-old

border collie-golden retriever mix Dakota, neither does she. Dakota's actually got more space at her disposal than you might think.

With a little creativity and Pindilli's handiwork, the couple turned the bottom half of their hall closet into an indoor "doghouse" for Dakota. Pindilli nailed a horizontal board into the back wall to section off the space for Dakota to sleep in. The dimensions of the doghouse floor are about 3 feet by 4 feet — just enough room for Dakota to freely wander in and out of the miniature den, and to curl up on her full-size bed inside.

"When she was a puppy, she used to look for places like this," says Knaus, 27, an energy analyst.

"She likes to go in there if a service person comes into the condo to repair something or if we have guests over," adds Pindilli, 31, a government civilian with the Army. "For the dog to have her own space in the condo is pretty clutch."

Creating a people and creature-friendly zone is vital for pet owners who live in an urban environment. Dogs that might naturally want to frolic in fields, forests or even backyards can easily seem stifled in a downtown studio apartment. Plus, canines and cats aren't even welcome everywhere: Plenty of condos and rental units ban animals or restrict the types of pets owners can keep (beta fish or cacti, anyone?).

For dogs, weight and height limits are fairly common, meaning it's especially difficult to keep a large pooch. In some condos, for example, even if dogs are allowed, they must weigh less than 20 pounds, meaning you might want to reconsider adopting a mastiff if you live in tight quarters with tighter restrictions. Given these obstacles, it takes a little extra planning and ingenuity to keep creatures content in the city. Yet, as anyone who's ever been to a local dog park or attended a pup-friendly happy hour (with or without a furry friend) can tell you, city life with Fido or Fluffy is certainly manageable.

First things first: Finding a condo in the Metro area that allows

animals of all sizes can be time-consuming and tricky. Condo buildings or associations often have the ultimate say about whether your best friend is welcome.

"From our perspective, it's very tough to have pets in the building," says Michelle Giannini, the senior vice president of sales and marketing for development company PN Hoffman. Noisy or rambunctious pets can become a nuisance to other tenants or cause damage to the buildings themselves. PN Hoffman's buildings do allow pets, Giannini says. "But we really do leave it up to the homeowners to decide what type of pet policies they would like to put in place [in individual condo buildings] because we find each building is different."

You couldn't have a giraffe, but any type of house pet is definitely allowed."

DEBI FOX, REALTOR FOR THE PET-FRIENDLY LACEY CONDOS

Other companies have no qualms about accepting all types of pets. Take the Lacey Condos, a Wilson Enterprises building at 1100 Florida Avenue NW that's due to be completed this fall. The Lacey has an anything-goes pet policy, which is "a definite plus," says Debi Fox, a Realtor with D.C. Real Estate who is selling units at the Lacey. "Our whole philosophy is about a certain kind of lifestyle: It's about comfort and a stylish life," says Fox. "We wouldn't want to tell people they can't have pets. Obviously, you couldn't have a giraffe, but any type of house pet is definitely allowed."

Most of the Lacey's 26 boutique-style units (ranging from about 600 square feet to 1,800 square feet) include outdoor space — a perk for animals that like to bask in fresh air. The building's welcoming attitude and architecture also make it a friendly place for people and pets alike, Fox says. "In the city, you get a lot of businesspeople and a lot of young people, and a lot of those people have pets, so the condo buildings have to appease the trend of what's going on," says Fox, whose husband, Ali Honarkar, designed the

Lacey for Division1 Architects. Fox, Honarkar and their two children live with their border collie-husky mix, Brutus, in a Shaw townhouse. "It's a very social thing to have an animal," Fox says.

While she believes it's not too hard to find a pet-friendly condo in Washington (at least half of the places on the market today permit pets, with some restrictions, she says), others think it's still too difficult to hunt down accommodations for feline or canine roomies. Lisa LaFontaine, the president and CEO of the Washington Humane

Personality can often trump size in determining how a dog behaves at home.

Society, wishes there were more resources available for pet owners. Every day, she says, her office fields calls from people searching for high-quality pet-friendly housing.

"There are a number of people who have to give their pet up because they can't move with them," LaFontaine says. "And as we saw in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, people look really hard for the type of housing situation that will let them stay with their pets. So, we would love to see many more pet-friendly housing complexes."

Minnie An, 30, a Georgetown University administrator who rents a unit in the Villages condo complex in Falls Church, says she had a "very difficult" time finding a place that would also accommodate her 5-year-old Yorkshire terrier, Pepsi. Eventually, she realized condo rentals would be more flexible than apartment buildings.

"Most apartments had monthly fees [for pets]," An says. "With condos, they didn't, since it was up to the owners." (Once, when she was living in South Korea about three years ago, An says, she kept Pepsi in an apartment building that didn't allow pets. She doesn't recommend it. "I would always have to leave the windows closed and lock the door," An says. "I was paranoid. It was stressful.")

Today, An is thrilled with her

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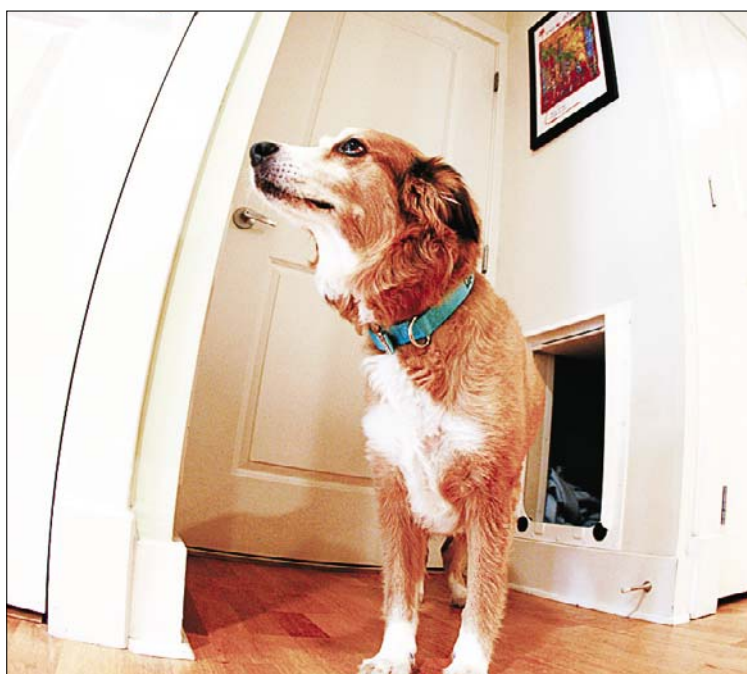
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rental because it has a large floor-to-ceiling window in the living room that looks out onto the front lawn and An's parking space — a perfect for Pepsi to hang out. The energetic 9-pound pup often sits, sleeps and people-watches on a small pillow in front of the window.

"The main reason I liked this place is because of the window," An says. "Pepsi likes sitting here in the sun, and she just loves looking out the window."

For Dakota, too, tall windows and glass doors — and their ideal dog's-level view — are key, Knaus and Pindilli say. Living in a small condo with a large, "lazy" dog is "not a space issue — it's an entertainment issue," says Pindilli. "And that dog's a people-watcher."

Of course, besides having a pet-friendly home with the right types of spaces, most dog owners also need to consider whether their condos or apartments are located near inviting outdoor spaces. Dakota's owners bring her to the dog park behind



CREATURE COMFORT: Dakota hangs out in a closet her owners remodeled for her.

their North Hartford Street condo daily so that she can run around and socialize with other pooches. "You see the same crowd there every day," Knaus says.

If there's one thing Knaus would tell a condo dweller considering adopting a dog, she says she'd recommend researching the pup's personality. "The breed and

"I'm actually very happy to see cats living in condos with loving owners."

LISA LAFONTAINE,
WASHINGTON HUMANE SOCIETY

temperament are really important to consider," she says. "I got lucky with Dakota."

LaFontaine of the Washington Humane Society says that personality can often trump size in determining how a dog behaves at home. "One thing that would surprise people is that Great Danes make fabulous apartment and condo dogs because they don't need a lot of exercise," says LaFontaine, who lives with three dogs (two Labrador retrievers and a pit bull-retriever mix) and two cats (tortoiseshell mixes) in a small house in the District. "As long as those dogs

get basic exercise, they can also live very happy lives. For dogs in general, the big thing about them is they're pack animals, so they want to be with their pack, whether that's one person or other animals. They can live very happily in small spaces."

And cats — which are generally allowed in more buildings than dogs, anyway — are actually ideal condo dwellers, LaFontaine says. "Outdoors, cats can fall victim to injury, disease, wildlife, so we advocate for them being indoors. I'm actually very happy to see cats living in condos with loving owners."

Still, even if you're sharing a penthouse suite with a kitten, you might find yourself yearning for extra space from time to time. But Knaus says there's a silver lining in her full house with Pindilli and their dog, Dakota: "It's beneficial in terms of the amount of time I spend vacuuming," she says. "The less space, the less vacuuming."

KATIE ABERBACH (EXPRESS)

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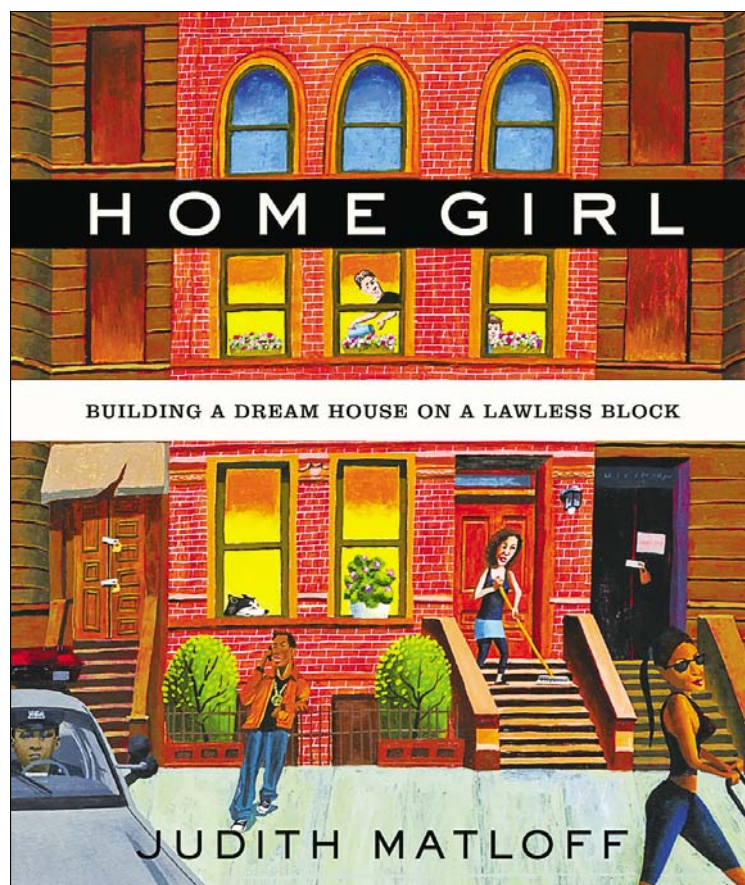
Renovation Frustration

An urban pioneer shares her story of rehabbing a house in West Harlem

When Judith Matloff moved back to the U.S. after a career in foreign journalism, she dreamed of buying a home — and did just that in 2000. What she didn't count on was that her dream brownstone — four floors, almost 5,000 square feet — in West Harlem would be surrounded by crack houses and infested with termites. In her new book, "Home

Girl" (\$25, Random House), Matloff documents everything about her renovation, from how she and her husband befriended local drug addicts and dealers, to how she coped with lousy grocery stores and ethnic tension. **RACHEL KAUFMAN**

Do you think somebody without years of experience being in war zones as a reporter in places like Rwanda, Chechnya and Sudan would be able to do what you did? I think it takes a certain spirit of adventure, and a tough skin, to do it and not feel paroxysms of fear. When you're in areas where people



are actually starving it humbles you. It teaches you humans can adapt to anything. This [experience of renovating a house in a sketchy neighborhood] was not terribly dramatic; it was more of an annoyance.

Also, living abroad helps you deal with other cultures. [Moving to a new area] is a lot like moving into another foreign country, so you try to respect their mores and customs. Living abroad teaches you a little bit about negotiating, because you're always an outsider. Your comfort level is always being jolted.

Would you buy and rehab a house in a gentrifying neighborhood again? Would you ever want to?

We were thinking of doing it again when the South Bronx was really cheap. We were thinking of buying an old factory warehouse, but then we looked at each other and — well, really, friends and family looked at each other and said, "You can't do that again." It's a little like childbirth; you forget the pain

CONTINUED ON E10

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Home Makeover

CONTINUED FROM E9

each time.

Incidentally, the house is still a total wreck. We didn't manage to fix the stairs totally to the wall; the stairs are coming off again. And the house is still sloping. An engineer came in and said, "It'll cost just a little bit, just \$50,000 to \$100,000." Increasingly, with the mortgage squeeze and food prices going through the roof, every little extra \$5 matters, let alone \$50,000. So we've kind of put that off. ... We just hope the house doesn't fall down in the next few years.

To me, your finding a termite nest in the kitchen seemed like the worst part of your remodeling project. What's your vote?

The most horrible part for me was when the back wall fell down. We had these crack addicts living next door, one of whom was named Salami. We had no back wall ... and these crack addicts who wanted to

take over our house.

The other unpleasant thing would be the money. People always tell you to budget in three times more than you expect, but our renovation ended up being 10 times more expensive than we expected.

What's the most important thing to do when renovating?

I would get quotes. Everybody says you should get quotes — and I really recommend you heed this advice. We really did not do things properly.

Also, don't play God with a house. Even if you can build bookshelves, do not think you can take on a job like this yourself. Hire a professional.

What's it like, emotionally, to come home to a house that's being renovated as completely as yours was?

Oh God, don't even ask. I understand why a lot of couples' marriages fall apart [during renovations], because it really frays your nerves.

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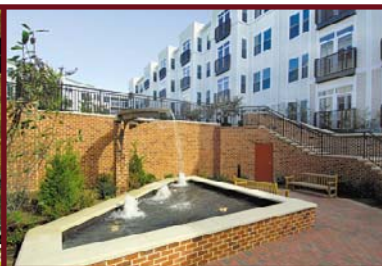
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FEARLESS FIXER-UPPER: Judith Matloff and her son sit on their Harlem stoop.

The stuff on the street was nothing compared to the stress of living in this decayed environment with this rubble around us. Hacking coughs from all the dust, not having running water ... and these guys would come at 6 a.m. and stay until 11 p.m. You couldn't get rid of them. They were on every floor [of the house].

We didn't even have a garbage can. There was no point to vacuuming, and because we were trying to get the job done really quickly, we didn't really take days off. A normal person might go home to Mom over the weekend. We didn't.

You write in the book about eating Cubano sandwiches day after day because there was nowhere else in the neighborhood to eat. But with gentrification, is that still the case? Thankfully, all the Dominican diners are still there. A lot of Mexicans have moved in, so we also have these really great Mexican restaurants. And we just got a Yemeni restaurant. Some yuppie places have come in, so now we can buy whole wheat bread.

One of the first things you did when moving in was befriend the local drug dealers. Is this sound advice for someone moving to a dodgy

neighborhood?

I like to think we didn't befriend them, but we established a cordial working relationship. That was the best advice anyone could give us. You're coming onto somebody else's block, and you have to play

Don't play God with a house. Even if you can build bookshelves, do not think you can take it on by yourself.

by their rules. You have to make it quite clear that you're not going to be antagonistic, as much as you might disapprove of what they do. You have to get along.

As for the actual residents on the street, they reached out to us first. We were absolutely thrilled. We would do anything in our power to make life good for them, whether it would be to shovel the snow of old ladies who live alone or have them over for barbecue.

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Victory Over Disarray

Storage tips from a pro and weeks of sorting help one pack rat de-clutter

After 11 weeks, more than \$500 in new storage containers and dozens of overstuffed trash bags, I have cleaned out my attic.

It's not just neat; it's organized. That means the china rests next to the crystal and the silver, packed nicely in new quilted boxes. The Christmas cookie jar sits on top of



NIGHTMARE FOR NEAT FREAKS: With the help of a professional organizer, the author spent 11 weeks cleaning out her attic.

the boxes of tree ornaments. My 2-year-old son's art portfolio lies atop the plastic bin of baby clothes I want to keep.

Everything is labeled and lined up along either side of the attic, leaving an open space more than 10 feet wide. So wide, I was able to unroll two Oriental rugs that had been rolled up for nearly five years.

Organizing the attic was an emotional experience. I had to face the fact that I was never going to use a lot of the stuff I inherited from my parents and it was time to get rid of some of it. I had to admit that there was no reason to hold on to the high chair and other baby gear I'd been storing, because I wasn't going to have any more children. And I had to acknowledge my failure at household bookkeeping after spending hours sorting through

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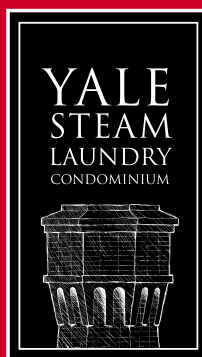
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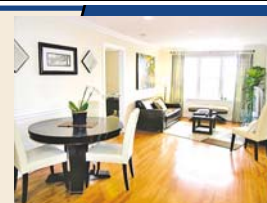
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boxes of outdated bills, tax returns and other documents.

Beyond the emotional toll, this was a back-breaking job. It took me weeks, because you can only work in two- or three-hour shifts. Even armed with a pitcher of water and having an attic that's more climate-controlled than most, the sorting and storing became very tedious.

Keep a few extra storage containers on hand to avoid piling stuff on top of stuff.

This is why I couldn't complete this project on my own. Caitlin Shear, a professional organizer with A Sorted Affair in Fairfax (I love her firm's name), came to my house in Northwest Washington for two hours every Friday morning to nudge and prod me forward and remind me that an attic should be for long-term storage, not for just dumping things until someone decides what to do with them.

She offered advice on what to keep, what to donate and what to throw away.

She carted my donations to various nonprofit organizations in the region so they wouldn't sit for

months in my garage. She offered ideas on reusing some stuff I couldn't part with but I didn't really need. And she was a compassionate listener when attic treasures revived painful memories of my mother's unsuccessful battle with leukemia and my father's subsequent decline.

The overwhelming emotion I feel is relief. I was embarrassed about the way the place looked and ashamed that I could not find anything. Now I am proud and less stressed. Here are some lessons I've learned:

1. So much of what was up there was trash. Week after week as Caitlin and I sifted through my clutter, a lot of what we found needed to be thrown out — not donated, not reused. I'm talking empty boxes and shopping bags, crumpled-up newspaper, mailing tubes, ATM receipts from a decade ago, the lease for the apartment my husband, Bob, and I rented nine years ago. Caitlin estimates that we threw out 60 percent of what was in the attic. We donated about 10 percent and kept the remaining 30 percent.

2. Time changes everything. I don't think I would have donated anything two or three years ago. Five years ago, I don't think Bob would have considered donating his archives of the 1995 Detroit newspaper strike. Caitlin said many

CONTINUED ON E14

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Major Cleanup

CONTINUED FROM E13

people hold on to things long after their usefulness has ended because they reflect a time in life they don't want to let go of. In her own life, she said, it was hard to get rid of the very expensive yarn she bought in 1989 but never put to good use. The same with the leotards from the ballet class she loved but no longer has the time to attend.

3. You're never really done. My attic looks great, but I need to work to keep it that way. Caitlin recommends a seasonal approach. For example, after Christmas, she wants me to see whether there were any ornaments or decorations I did not hang. They might be candidates for donations. Tax time is a good opportunity to sort through paper-



TO THE TUNE OF TIDY: Albums are stored neatly in boxes in the author's attic after she launched a major effort to organize.

Tax time is a good chance to sort through paperwork and toss unneeded documents.

work and see whether I'm holding on to documents I don't need. In June, when school lets out, she suggests I sort through the clothing and mementos I've collected for my daughter, Maggie, and my son, Charlie. Caitlin also recommends having a few extra storage containers on hand to immediately start a new project and avoid piling stuff on top of stuff. LIZ SEYMOUR (THE WASHINGTON POST)



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SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY



INTENSE CONTRAST: Deep blue walls make Kehinde Wiley's paintings stand out at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery. Studying museum walls is a great way to learn which shades look right together.

Artistic Inspiration

Visit a museum to learn how to fill your home with eye-catching color

Kehinde Wiley's paintings at the National Portrait Gallery — of hip-hop stars posed like 17th- to 19th-century moguls in famous portraits — use colors so intense it would be hard to find a wall paint worthy of them.

That job falls to a team of museum staff that weighs design possibilities for every exhibit. For Wiley's canvases, they winnowed paint samples for the rooms to two options: an olive green or a vivid blue.

"Both colors worked well, but

we liked what the blue tended to do to the paintings, how it made them pop," says Nello Marconi, chief of design and production for the National Portrait Gallery for 31 years. In the end, he says, the green "wasn't as offbeat and striking and shocking as the paintings are." They chose Benjamin Moore's Brilliant Blue.

We all obsess over what color to paint the walls in our home and how to pick shades that look right with each other and with our belongings. Here's one way to get ideas: Go to a museum. There, on a large expanse of wall, you can see colors painstakingly selected by pros. Even though those spaces contain grand architectural details and priceless pieces, the designers whose deci-

sions shape our museum experience have to make the same choices consumers do.

“Modern art always looks best on white walls.”

CLAIRE LARKIN, SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM

"It's very similar to the way someone would go about doing it in their own home," says Catherine Armour, chair of design and an exhibition designer for the Corcoran Gallery of Art who has a background as an architect and an interior designer.

"The first thing we do is look at the character of the space: Is it a living space? Is it a dining space?" Or, in the museum setting, she would ask, "What's the story behind this exhibition?"

The next step, she and other designers say, is to think about the style of the things that will go in that space. "Modern art always looks best on white walls," says Claire Larkin, special projects director and acting chief of the exhibitions department for the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

On the second floor of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, two galleries of the museum's permanent collection show how opposites attract. Think back to elementary school art class: If you

put the basic rainbow colors one right after another in a color wheel, green would be across from red, so green and red are opposites. The museum designers paired those opposite colors in two ways. Artist Thomas Wilmer Dewing often used green tones in his paintings, so the designers chose a dusty rose color for a room of his works.

Strong colors work only in measured doses, says Larkin, pointing out a room painted a "voluptuous" red to set off Hiram Powers's white marble sculptures. Imagine if the museum had used that color in a larger gallery: "It's like too much chocolate cake at a birthday party; you can max out on it," she says.

Eliza Rathbone, chief curator of the Phillips Collection, encourages home painters to avoid picking a color solely because you liked it in a museum. Because of a gallery's custom lighting, she says, "a lot of colors will look a lot different in the museum than in your home."

ANNE KENDERDINE (THE WASHINGTON POST)

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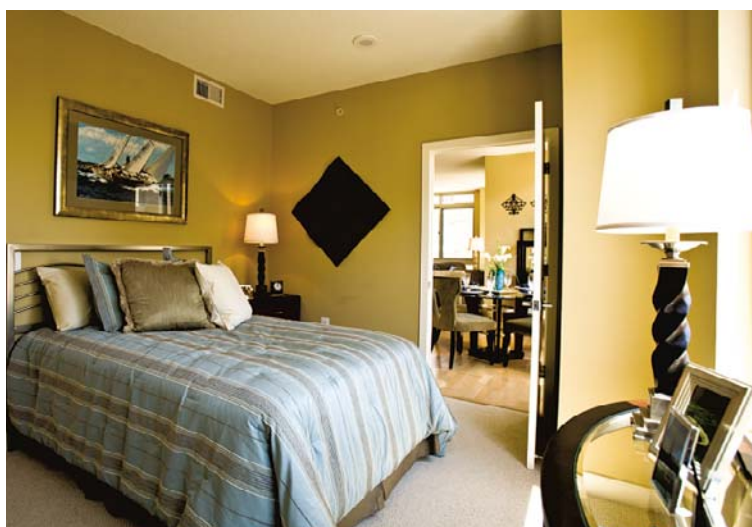
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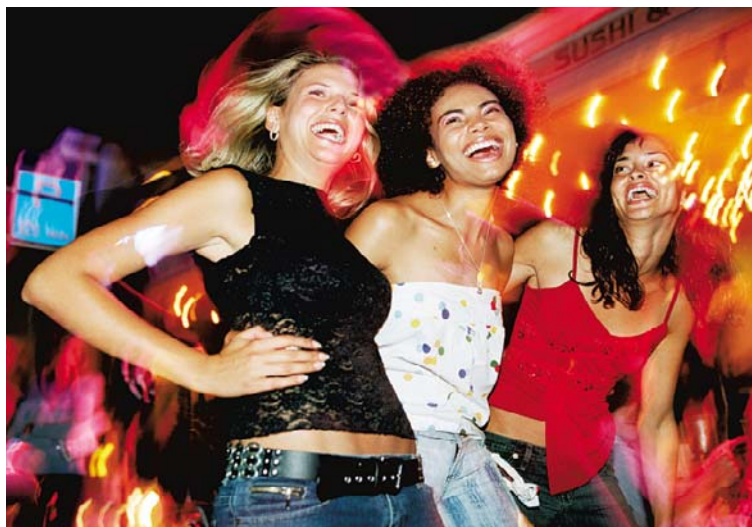


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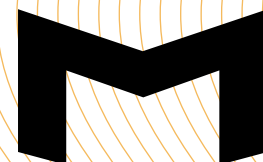
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